

### Demolition Planned Soon for Schlage Lock Site



Supervisor Sophie Maxwell spoke during a community celebration at the Old Schlage Lock Office Building on Aug. 9.

by Fran Martin

It cannot be emphasized enough that we all stay informed about the ongoing process to develop the Schlage Lock site. The remediation (clean up) and demolition planning process has already begun. Soon we will begin the design process, which is absolutely crucial, since the site is the heart of our neighborhood and will define it in the future.

Development at Schlage Lock must express best practices in terms of sustainability and green building, become a thriving livable community, become integral to the greater neighborhood and be aesthetically stunning. The following is a synopsis of recent meetings concerning the remediation and demolition process for Schlage Lock.

At the August 9th Visitacion Valley Planning Alliance meeting, there was a presentation by the owners of the Schlage Lock property, Universal Paragon Corporation (UPC) and their remediation (clean up) associates, Brownfield

Partners. Jonathan Scharfman, Project Manager, spoke for UPC about the history of the project and the upcoming demolition and clean up process.

This was one of many meetings to come in the Valley to insure that residents will be informed about the process and safety measures that will be put in place for the neighborhood's protection. Every home impacted by the demolition and clean up process will be notified. There will be a hotline to report any complaints and UPC/Brownfield Partners and the California State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) will be available to answer the public's questions.

Brownfield Partners will oversee the entire demolition/remediation process with Stuart Miner in charge of the demolition and Mary Hashem in charge of the remediation. Their contractor, Recycled Materials, Inc., will do the actual demolition and MACTEC will be the remediation contrac-

tor. There will be overlapping duties between the two contractors on site.

Stuart Miner spoke about the demolition process, which will begin, at the earliest, mid October and continue for about 6 months. There have been previous lead and asbestos surveys, which have been updated with a supplemental survey done in mid-April to ascertain the amount of materials that will actually need to be removed. Only flaking lead paint needs to be removed, not lead paint that continues to adhere to a surface.

The demolition plans will be completed in the next few weeks. All the hazardous materials, such as mercury switches, light ballasts, etc. will be removed before the asbestos and lead paint will be abated.

It is important to note that the removal of hazardous materials will be done within the buildings. Demolition will not occur until these materials are gone. See Page 4

### Mayor Announces Substantial Drop in City's Litter

Mayor Gavin Newsom recently announced that the City's litter has dropped by 19 percent in the course of one year, moving San Francisco substantially closer to its goal of reducing litter in the city by 50 percent over 5 years.

"A 19 percent drop in litter is great, but we should by no means rest on our laurels now," said Mayor Newsom. "Litter is something that we can prevent and it's important that we all continue to educate others and each do our part to ensure that our city is clean and free of trash."

The 2008 audit, commissioned by the Department of the Environment, catalogued various categories of litter at 132 sites in order to establish citywide averages and trends.

Key findings included:

\*There was an overall average decrease of 19 percent in the amount of large and small litter between 2007 and 2008.

\*The amount of styrofoam litter has decreased 36 percent from last year. This may be attributable to the styrofoam ban that took effect this past year.

\*Cigarette butts have nearly doubled from 5.6 to 10 percent.

\*Muni has shown the best improvement among last year's offenders, decreasing litter by 77 percent.

\*Wells Fargo has shown the worst increase in litter.

\*The Marlboro brand of cigarette represents 41 percent of all branded cigarette litter.

Dubbed the "Dirty Dozen" of San Francisco's litter, the top 12 brands found on the city's streets were:

McDonalds, Marlboro, Starbucks, Wells Fargo, Burger King, Taco Bell, Safeway, Walgreens, 7-Eleven, Muni, Popeye's, and Jack in the Box.

In 2007, the City commissioned a litter study to quantify the amount and composition of litter on the streets. This is the second study of its kind conducted in San Francisco.

In addition, the Mayor launched an anti-litter campaign that will educate people across the city about the ill effects of littering. The anti-litter ads will be placed on the interior and exterior of buses and in bus shelters throughout the city. The campaign will run through early fall and is also sponsored by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA). SFMTA will also be installing 800 trilingual No Littering/\$500 fine permanent signage over the next several months

### Sunnydale Slated for Big Changes

by Betty Parrshall

The community information and planning process is just getting started since the Sunnydale public housing site was selected by the Mayor's Office of Housing, the SF Housing Authority and the HOPE SF Task force to be transformed through HOPE SF.

The goal of the transformation is to build new, safe and quality housing and services for residents of Sunnydale. The program will include:

\*One for one replacement of existing housing with new housing.

\*New housing units will be a mix of public housing replacement housing, affordable and market rate, rental and homeownership.

\*New residents at a variety of income levels to help create a new mixed income neighborhood.

\*City and community services for families and seniors.

\*New jobs and potentially new businesses.

Mercy Housing Coalition and Related Companies of California are two development organizations that have been selected to work with the community in the planning and development. The help of residents is needed in creating the vision and master plan of the new community that will include the physical layout of housing, streets, outdoor spaces and play areas, community facilities and businesses.

Invitations will be sent out to come to a meeting in September to learn more and start to work on the master plan.

At a preliminary meeting held July 31, the complexities of achieving the transformation were discussed, and many questions were raised. The plan includes providing residents with housing on the site during the demolition and new construction period and this raised many questions of how this will be accomplished. Air quality during the development period, what open space and recreation facilities, community services and retail businesses will be included, were among the concerns raised.

One question not decided yet is how many units will be built. Sunnydale has 785 units (not all currently occupied); the new Sunnydale will have significantly more units.

The planning process is expected to take 2 to 3 years, and completion of the development another 10 to 12 years, so as the advisory letter from Mercy Housing says, "don't pack anything." Sunnydale residents may soon see people with surveying equipment. They will be surveying the land to provide information about the existing layout.

Watch for notices of the coming meetings - it hoped that there will be a good community turnout by both Sunnydale and other residents of Visitacion Valley to take part in the design planning. This change will have important impacts on the southeast corner of San Francisco and your ideas, opinions and monitoring are essential to get the best possible results.

### Neighborhood Panel Will Determine Art Opportunities for New Library

by S.F. Arts Commission

The Arts Commission is currently working with the Visitacion Valley residents to determine art opportunities at the new Visitacion Valley Branch Library facility. As part of this process, the Arts Commission will create a Visitacion Valley Branch Community Artist Selection Panel to include three community representatives; Wen Chin Chen, Branch Manager; Andrew Maloney, Project Architect; and an Arts Commissioner.

The following Visitacion Valley community members have been elected to serve on this panel:

\*Christopher Barnett: The owner of Sterling Art Services, a fine arts framing company, Mr. Barnett has a degree in art history/museum studies. He looks forward to contributing his knowledge of art and media to this process.

\*Tara Hui: A member of the Visitacion Valley Planning Alliance, Ms. Hui has been involved with the planning/design issues of new branch library for the past five years. She feels the new library should function well as a library, a beautiful space of leisure, and add to the well being of the community.

\*Anne Seeman: A working artist, Ms. Seeman holds a Masters in Fine Arts from the San Francisco Art Institute. A community activist, she previously collaborated with the Visitacion Valley Childrens Librarian on the Visitacion Valley

Greenway. She is open to a variety of arts forms and is thrilled about this project

Artist Selection Process

In early September, the Visitacion Valley Branch Community Artist Selection Process will convene to review and discuss the application materials of a selection of artists from the prequalified Branch Library Improvement Project (BLIP) artist candidate pool. Panelists will be expected to assess and discuss the qualifications of each applicant from images and other application materials, to score the applicants, and to select three semi-finalists.

In early October, the semi finalists will attend an orientation meeting with community representatives, the branch architect, and library and arts commission staff to discuss art possibilities for the new Visitacion Valley Branch Library.

Based on information obtained at this orientation meeting, the three artist finalists will prepare artwork proposals, which will be displayed at a public location in Visitacion Valley for a period of two weeks for written public comment.

Finally, in mid-December, the community panel will reconvene to interview the three finalists and select one of the three proposals for implementation at the Visitacion Valley Branch Library, pending approval by the Arts Commission. All panel meetings are open to the public.

Following is a tentative schedule of community panelists meetings:

\*Late September, Arts Commission Offices: Round 1 - Visitacion Valley Branch library selection panel meeting.

\*Early October, Location TBD: Visitacion Valley Artist Orientation.

\*Mid-December, Arts Commission Offices: Round 2 - Visitacion Valley finalist panel meeting.

Please note that due to prior commitments, community member Marlene Tran withdrew her name from consideration.

Please direct questions to Ellen Shershow, San Francisco Arts Commission, 25 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102 or ellen.shershow@sfgov.org, 415-252-2594

### Clean Up for State Recreation Area at Candlestick Point

The California Integrated Waste Management Board on Aug. 19 awarded grants for the cleanup and removal of illegal waste dumped at Candlestick Point State Recreation Area.

A \$1.2 million allocation will clean up part of the San Francisco Bay shoreline next to Candlestick Park. The site is considered the most blighted facility in the California State Parks system.

The cleanup area covers approximately 13 acres of the 170-acre recreation area and was used for years for the illegal dumping of concrete and other debris into San Francisco Bay.



### Leland Avenue Street Fair Returns To Visitacion Valley on Sunday, Sept. 14, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Third Annual Street Fair is looking for volunteers, vendors and sponsors. To get involved, contact VVBOOM Program Manager Nick Wolff at (415) 587-7896, ext. 104.



## Grapevine Mailbox

### Merchant Safety Walk

The following letter was sent July 30 to Police Chief Heather Fong and Captain Denis O'Leary of Ingleside Station:

Dear Police Chief Fong and Captain O'Leary:

I would like to thank the Ingleside Police Station for their participation in our Merchant Safety Walk initiative. In particular, I'd like to thank Captain Denis O'Leary, Sergeant Rachael Karp and Lieutenant Frank Lee. Through their time and effort, VVBOOM was able to provide constructive opportunities for business owners on Leland Avenue and Bayshore Boulevard to address their specific safety issues.

Most notably, merchants were delighted by the noticeable increase in police foot presence on Leland Avenue. Police presence was an issue of discontent with a vast majority of business owners prior to our Merchant Safety Walk initiative. Furthermore, the immediate and astute safety strategies and tips provided were well received.

With continued support from the Ingleside Police Station, VVBOOM's 'Merchant Safety Walk' initiative can continue to provide business owners the tools and assistance necessary to succeed in a challenging commercial corridor. We understand your time and resources are valuable, and want to formally thank you. VVBOOM is thrilled about this new partnership and look forward to working with you in the coming months.

Sincerely, Nick Wolff,  
VVBOOM Program Manager

### Legislation Targets Recycling Raiders

The California State Senate passed a bill on Aug. 22 that cracks down on recycling raiders who steal newspapers from news stands and CRV containers from curbside recycling bins.

The legislation, AB 1778, provides law enforcement with needed tools to deter theft by placing modest requirements on recyclers who currently engage in large, cash transactions for aluminum cans, plastic and glass bottles, and newspaper.

"These recycling raiders must be brought out from the shadows," said Assemblywoman Fiona Ma. "Assembly Bill 1778 restores order to neighborhoods that are trashed in the middle of the night. With the price of recycled materials on the rise, recycling theft has become a lucrative business."

Across California, thieves rummage for bottles and cans in recycling bins late at night. These organized fleets wake residents, throw unwanted materials on the ground, and trespass on private property.

Their theft increases garbage rates and the risk of identity theft. The thieves also target newspapers by following delivery trucks that drop off bundles at newsstands. They then use large trucks to carry the bundles they pick up and then turn them into a recycler for cash without any requirement to show identification.

AB 1778 requires recyclers to pay by check and obtain identifying information of individuals who bring in more than \$100 worth of CRV recyclables and more than \$50 worth of newspapers. Two thousand, two hundred aluminum cans have a cash value of \$100; 840 pounds of newspaper has a value of \$50.

### A Better Job

Imagine your employer getting this:  
Dear Boss:

I have enjoyed working here these past several years. You have paid me very well, given me benefits beyond belief. I have 3-4 months off per year and a pension plan that will pay my salary till the day I die and a health plan that most people can only dream about.

Despite this I plan to take the next 12-18 months to find a new position. During this time I will show up for work when it is convenient. In addition I fully expect to draw my full salary and all the other perks associated with my current job. Oh yeah, if my search for this new job proves fruitless, I will be back with no loss in pay or status. Before you say anything, remember that you have no choice in the matter. I can and will do this.

Sincerely, Every Senator or Congressman Running for President.

### S.F. Emissions Lower Than 1990 Levels

Mayor Gavin Newsom recently solidified San Francisco's status as a leader on environmental issues accepting an award from ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and announcing the completion of a comprehensive study showing that by 2005, San Francisco achieved a 5 percent reduction in community-wide greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels. The Year 1990 is the baseline year for greenhouse gas emissions in the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which set the target at a 7 percent reduction below 1990 levels by 2012.

In 2002, San Francisco set its own goal of reaching a 20 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels by 2012. While San Francisco has reduced emissions 5 percent since 1990, there has been a significant downturn of 8 percent from peak emissions in 2000, totaling 670,000 tons of greenhouse gas.

"We are already on pace to exceed the goal of a 7 percent reduction in greenhouse gases set by the Kyoto Protocol," said Mayor Newsom, "With the aggressive policies and initiatives being put forth by my administration, we can continue to move towards our goal of 20 percent reduction by 2012."

The results of the study were independently reviewed by ICF International, which has prepared the official United States Greenhouse Gas inventory and produced and reviewed hundreds of other public and private sector inventories. In ICF's opinion, the inventory provides a credible compilation of community-wide GHG emissions in the city and county of San Francisco.

According to a statement from ICF, "San Francisco's community inventory methodology goes above and beyond most current community inventories in the United States. These efforts are impressive given the inherent complexities and challenges in producing a community-wide inventory and the lack of a widely accepted and standard community-wide inventory protocol."

The "community-wide inventory" includes greenhouse gas emissions generated by San Francisco by residents, businesses, and commuters, as well as municipal operations. The inventory also includes emissions from both transportation sources and from building energy sources.

ICLEI also chose the day to award San Francisco its 5th star for achieving all the goals set by their agency for a local city to address climate change. ICLEI is the international association of local governments and national and regional local government organizations that have made a commitment to sustainable development. Nearly 900 cities, towns, counties, and their associations worldwide comprise ICLEI's growing membership. ICLEI

## Sunset District Prepares for Autumn Moon Festival Community Celebration

by Senator Leland Y. Yee

I am writing to invite you to attend what has become a wonderful and exciting Sunset District community tradition. On Saturday, September 13, 2008, the Sunset District Autumn Moon Festival Committee will host the 4th Annual Autumn Moon Festival in the Sunset District of San Francisco. This annual festival has become an integral part of San Francisco culture, and I am proud that we have extended this important celebration into our local neighborhood.

The Sunset District Autumn Moon Festival attracts thousands of people to enjoy a variety of product booths, delicious food, captivating entertainment, and outstanding art. Many local organizations and merchants have participated in the planning, including the Tzu Chi

works with these and hundreds of other local governments through international performance-based, results-oriented campaigns and programs.

"Today we recognize San Francisco as a true leader and innovator on climate protection and part of an elite group of cities driving action and inspiring others," said ICLEI Executive Director Michelle Wyman. "From green building standards and their commitment to recycling and waste reduction, San Francisco illustrates the power of a local government to proactively address global warming while enhancing the community."

Specific Communitywide Inventory reductions/increases between 1990-2005 include:

\*Transportation - The vast majority of transportation emissions come from car traffic.

\*Intraregional emissions since 1990 have increased, in large part because commuters are traveling from farther away locations.

\*San Francisco road vehicle emissions actually decreased since 1990. Despite this, California's Department of Transportation forecasts that these emissions (and total vehicle miles traveled) will take a sharp upturn. However, this does not incorporate any drastic increases in gas prices into the model.

\*San Francisco has seen an overall reduction in electricity emissions between 1990 and 2005 (measured). This reduction in lbs. of CO2 per Megawatt Hour reflects a cleaner electricity portfolio.

\*This emission reduction comes despite an overall uptick each year since 2003 in community electricity usage. Community usage of natural gas has been flat since 2003.

\*Natural gas usage has dropped 19% since 1990 due to a reduction in residential use.

\*Commercial and Industrial natural gas usage has gone up by about 15 percent.

Reductions in in-city generated pollutants and CO2 emissions are in large part due to scaled back output of two fossil-fueled power plants located in the City.

### Events in September at Valley Branch Library

Following are events in September at the Visitation Valley Branch Library, 45 Leland Ave.:

\*Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, Tuesday: Mother Goose on the Loose with stories songs and rhythms for babies and toddlers at 11:30 a.m.  
\*Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, Tuesday: Preschool Storytime for ages 3-5 at 10:30 a.m.

\*Sept. 24, Wednesday: Secret Journal Making from 4 to 5 p.m. Can you keep a secret? Join in on this unique journal making workshop. You'll be creating journals disguised as everyday objects so you can keep your secrets safe. Space is limited. To sign up contact: Abby Harwood at (415) 355-5660 or aharwood@sfpl.org.

Foundation and Richmond Area Multi-Services, Inc. A group of state agencies will also be present to bring government to the people and to distribute valuable public service information.

Attractions at the Festival will include the very popular "Kids Corner," which includes a bouncy house and animal petting zone. A variety of food booths, including delicious bakery items, unique dragon beard candy, barbeque, and vegetarian food, will be available. There will also be demonstration booths of various talents and art work.

The Sunset District Autumn Moon Festival takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Irving Street, between 22nd and 25th Avenues. The public is encouraged to attend, and admission is free.

There is a long history to this traditional Chinese celebration. The Autumn Moon Festival is one of the most important holidays for the Chinese community. The Festival falls on the fifteenth day of the eighth lunar month of the Chinese calendar. At this time, the moon is at its fullest and brightest, making it an ideal time to celebrate the abundance of the summer's harvest. The Moon Festival is a time for family reunions.

In the evening, family members gather to have a delicious dinner.

The traditional food of the Moon Festival is the moon cake, of which there are many different varieties. In the Yuan Dynasty, China was once harshly ruled by the Mongols. The people devised a plan to revolt against them. To deliver the message, their written plan was secretly embedded in moon cakes during the Mid-Autumn Festival. On the 15th day of the eighth month, the people revolted and drove out the Mongols. Since then, moon cakes have become a popular staple of the Moon Festival.

The Sunset event is an opportunity for all San Francisco residents to share in the tradition and celebration of the Autumn Moon Festival. This exciting street festival will bring together individuals, families, businesses, community leaders and organizations from not only the Sunset neighborhood, but all of San Francisco, to share in the pleasure of honoring an ancient custom. This festival is all-volunteer event, and was created to bring the best cultural community event for all to enjoy. Please join us for a day of culture and fun. For more information about the Autumn Moon Festival, please see its website at [www.AutumnMoonFestival.org](http://www.AutumnMoonFestival.org), or email the Committee at [info@AutumnMoonFestival.org](mailto:info@AutumnMoonFestival.org). I look forward to seeing you there.

## HAPPENINGS AT THE VALLEY LIBRARY



by Wen Chin Chen

Valley Branch Librarian

### New Valley Branch Library Moves Forward

At over 8,500 square feet, the new branch will have separate areas for adults, teens, and children, over 30 computers, room for an increased book and materials collection, a study room, and a new program room with after hour access for community events. It will be built on the site of Super Fair Market at the corner of Leland and Rutland. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2009 with the new building opening late 2010. Community members reviewed the plans at a public meeting on July 22nd. If you missed it, check out the designs for our new library in the branch windows or at [www.sfpl.org/blip](http://www.sfpl.org/blip). For more information contact the Branch Library Improvement Program at 415-557-4354.

### New at Your Local Library

Have you tried our new discovery tool - Encore? When you go on the SFPL home page, you will see Encore search box. Encore is our new catalog "discovery tool." It helps users by suggesting related words that are highlighted in the clickable tag cloud on the right side of the screen. These words are actually the subject headings of the titles in the results list. Above the tag cloud is a section of "popular choices" that shows the titles with the highest number of copies. The left side of the screen shows facets which enable the user to limit the search by material type, language, location, or date. Encore is also very good at searching for phrases and will recognize many common misspellings. If you have not tried it yet, please give it a try!

### IM Your Library

The San Francisco Public Library is now accepting instant messages Monday - Saturday 3-5 p.m. The new IM reference service works best for short questions. In depth questions will be forwarded in email format to subject specialists, who will try to get back to you within 2 days. If we're offline, you may still leave us a message, but please include your email address so we can get back to you. To learn more, visit our website: [http://sfpl.org/sfplonline/instant\\_messaging.htm](http://sfpl.org/sfplonline/instant_messaging.htm)

### September Teen Events

\*Make Your Own Secret Journal: Wednesday, September 24th from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Visitation Valley Branch, 45 Leland Ave. Can you keep a secret? Join us for this unique journal making workshop. We'll be creating journals disguised as everyday objects so you can keep your secrets safe! All materials provided! Space is limited, so contact Abby to sign up: (415) 355-2848.

\*Banned Books Week Contest for Teens (ages 13-18): Go ahead, judge a book by its cover! Celebrate Banned Books Week from September 27 to October 4, 2008. Covers from banned books and non-banned books will be displayed at participating libraries. Correctly guess the banned book titles and you'll be entered in a drawing for a \$100 Borders Books and Music shopping spree! Fill out entry form at participating libraries - Main Teen Center, Bayview, Chinatown, Excelsior, Glen Park, North Beach, Ocean View, Ortega, Parkside, Portola, Sunset and Visitation Valley. Drawing will take place on October 8th.

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Read current and past stories from the Visitation Valley Grapevine at [www.visvalleygrapevine.com](http://www.visvalleygrapevine.com)



## Enterprise For High School Students Assist Greenway

by Aida Teklu and Joseph Fiorello  
Enterprise For High School Students (EHSS) is a non-profit organization specializing in job training and employment opportunities for San Francisco high schoolers.

For the past two months, Visitacion Valley Greenway has been the beneficiary of a group of eight teenagers enlisted in this program. They include: Juan C. Martinez, Guillermo A. Garcia, Jeanette Qi, Vivian Tang, Benjamin Tang, Omar Daniel Reyes, Josh Moreno, and Rosevette Pickens.

Their supervisor, Sam Hartman, an environmental scientist and a former "Enterprise kid" himself brings a lot of hard work, humor, insight, as well as motivation to their training.

Throughout this program they have gained vast experience in physical wellness, teambuilding, career training, life management, banking, counseling, aptitude testing, and, of course, gardening training.

They accomplished a great deal in eight weeks, particularly considering only one of the youth had prior gardening experience.

Their first project was to plant all around the recreation center on Leland Avenue and Cora Street. Inside the courtyard, they cleared out sod and created a vegetable plot for the kids in the Visitacion Valley Clubhouse Summer Program. They also helped fill in an irrigation ditch and graded the soil, which made the area safer for the smaller children to play in.

For their second project, they completely renovated the Raymond Avenue entrance to the Visitacion Valley Greenway's Hans Schiller Plaza. Here, a small group consisting of Omar, Josh, Juan, and Guillermo dug up mangled roots as well as moving and amending dirt in eight beds and along the wall. At the same time, Jeanette,



Enterprise For High School Students did planting around the Valley Clubhouse.

Ben, and Vivian dug up large amounts of weeds and also unneeded dirt. Rosevette proved knowledgeable in planting, but also in necessary gardening preparations like cultivating soil in order for plants to grow successfully.

The Enterprise group was also lucky enough to be able to visit the Sunset Scavenger Recycling Center, including a guided tour of the sites own art center thanks to Jim Growden, who even designed the gates to many of the Greenway sites. Returning to Hans Schiller Plaza, two truckloads of rich compost were later amended into beds cleared of unneeded plants. After researching books in design and plants, the kids also took a field trip to the Rec and Park nursery and ordered over 75 new plants for the Greenway.

Aida Teklu, the Rec and Park gardener at Visitacion Valley says she "Tried my best to wear them out, but they proved indefatigable."

Every last one of them was enthusiastic and willing to go the extra mile. In the annual "Enterprise Olympics" hosted in the S.F. Botanical Gardens, the Visitacion Valley

Enterprise group aided by S.F. WorkReation Staff Joe Fiorello, 14, pulled out first among three other groups (that work in several other locations including McLaren Park, Buena Vista Park, and the SF Botanical Gardens) wearing their notorious 'VV' shirts.

Thanks to Fran Martin, Visitacion Valley Greenway co-chair who took over on Mondays guiding the Enterprise group to further add to the young workers knowledge of the history of the Greenway, gardening techniques, and even art.

Many neighbors have already commented on how more appealing the parks look and I'm sure they'll join me in thanking the Enterprise teens for all their hard work.

Enterprise For High School Students accepts kids from all neighborhoods and I'm especially encouraging Visitacion Valley Students interested in a fun summer job that offers more than just a paycheck.

If interested in being part of Enterprise For High School Students, please call Caitlin Donovan at 415-392-7600 (Ext. 319).

## Productive Day for Elementary School Garden Project

by Tara Hui

Ever observed a beehive closely? Or rather, been in one? That was how it seemed at one point during our garden workday on July 2 at Little Vis. At the height of the workday we had over 80 kids in the garden — at the same time!

Visitacion Valley Elementary School teachers, Mr. Spearmon, Ms. Li and Ms. Williams patiently instructed the kids — what the plants were; where to build the plots; be gentle with the plants; be careful not to hurt themselves and so on.

Amazingly, with the help of the older kids in Mr. Spearmon's class, the kindergartners and 1st graders managed to build their own little planting plots with reclaimed Urbanite (sidewalk concrete dropped off by DPW) and planted varieties of tomatoes and summer squash.

The swarm of kids from Mr. Spearmon, Ms. Li and Ms. Williams' classes gathered and dispersed all in less than an hour, leaving behind an aghast gardener musing over seven beautifully planted circles full of potential.

The morning really started calmly. Davin arrived with vegetable starts courtesy of Eco SF. The Urbanite was brought in the previous day. I had begun to mark off where things should be when Mr. Estaban arrived with his small class of well-behaved 2nd graders. Amongst them were seasoned little gardeners who had planted tomatoes and veggies at home.

To build a circle about three feet in diameter, I instructed enthusiastically. That was met with a lot of blank stares. "What's diameter?" Turned out diameter is not yet in the second grade instruction manual.

Mr. Estaban and I ventured that the diameter of a circle is the longest straight line within that circle passing through the center. Hmm... What about everyone making a circle around the flag (I planted flags to mark the location of where each plot should be), extending your hands and making sure the tip of your fingers can touch the flag. Now, where you're standing is where you want to put those Rocks (Urbanite). Whew! That wasn't too hard.

We talked about selecting healthy plants. Davin explained what some of the natural organic plant boosters are calcium, minerals and even beneficial bacteria!

In the afternoon, Christina Mason from AIM High came out with the "disinterested" 6th to 9th graders. What are we doing here? Digging dirt? "Eew, it's making my hand dirty!" exclaimed one voice. Let's build a large plot to reflect that you are all big kids! You can always wash your hands later, Christina and I prodded.

"Give me that shovel," someone volunteered, "I'll dig up these weeds!" With that, the AIM High students proceeded with gusto. The planting area took on the shape of my dining table — extended, abundant feasts await!

Last came the ogling little preschoolers from the adjacent Visitacion Valley Family School. They had been impatient onlookers the whole morning. Now that nap time is over, it's finally their turn! An enthusiastic ring of smiles gravitated around their beloved teacher, Cindy (Ms. Choy?) "I want to do it!" "I want to do it!" came from all directions. "Ok, you can hold this, you can water..." Cindy acceded, "Don't forget to share."

Several rounds of sharing <wink> later, the circle was planted and well watered. Those little smileys tarried despite the wind (for people not familiar with the 'Valley of the Windmills', wind picks up at 3 p.m. almost on the dot). All good things come to an end, they say, but after the kids were gone, their smiles got stuck on my face.

If you are interested in knowing more about the garden project, want to visit the garden or participate in our next workday, please join our Yahoo group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VVESGarden/> or email Tara at [tarahui@hotmail.com](mailto:tarahui@hotmail.com)

## Joe Leland around the neighborhood

**\*Sad to Report:** Tasha Ward, the owner of Miz Renas Beauty Salon & Spa, died suddenly from unknown causes. At the time of printing of this edition of the Grapevine, little is known about the death. We will endeavor to complete the story of this long time and much loved merchant and community member in next month's edition.

**\*The 56 Rutland — Reduced, Rerouted, Re-Imagined:** After the public outcry regarding Muni's Transit Effectiveness Project's recommendation to discontinue the 56 Rutland due to low ridership, Muni decision-makers reconsidered the route. They now propose to eliminate just the Little Hollywood / Candlestick Cove segment, shorten the remainder of the route to improved frequencies (30 to 20 minutes) and replace the bus with a van. The moral of this story: Community participation in government works, sometimes. To see all the proposed changes to the each line in the Muni system: <http://www.sfmta.com/cms/mtep/tepdraft.htm>

**\*Infill on Leland:** Infill Housing is a term used by planners and politicians to describe the rational behind the building of new housing in areas already built up. 191 Leland, a new mixed use building on a previously under utilized lot is a perfect example of this concept. Where once stood a single tiny cottage situated at the back of a narrow lot, now stands a new three story mixed use building. The developers of the site saved the tiny cottage while significantly improving the lot's serviceability by adding a storefront with two condos above. Although the condos do not have onsite parking, given the commercial nature of the Leland Avenue and a bus stop that is steps away, no parking is a fair compromise that has the added benefit in significantly reduced sales price for the homes. The storefront and new units are priced around \$400,000 each.

**\*No Parking at the Cow Palace:** Senator Leland Yee's proposal to sell and then demolish the Cow Palace resulted in such a negative backlash the plan was scrapped. However, a new plan is on its way to the Governor's desk that would allow 13 acres of the upper parking lot to be sold off a surplus State property. Some consider this a compromise that would save the dated but dependable arena while others see this as back door approach that effectively undermines the site's long term functionality. Nothing is finalized until SB 1527 is signed into law. To send your opinion to the Governor: <http://gov.ca.gov/interact#contact> or by snailmail: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger State Capitol Building Sacramento, CA 95814, Phone: 916-445-2841, Fax: 916-558-3160.

### Coffman Pool Schedule

1701 Visitacion Ave. (at Hahn Street)  
(415) 337-9085

Al Hardy, Senior Swimming Instructor  
[www.parks.sfgov.org](http://www.parks.sfgov.org)

Schedule through Jan. 3, 2009:

**\*Tuesday:** Schools 9:30-10:45 a.m.; Seniors/Special Needs 11 a.m.-12 noon; Lap Swim 12 noon-1 p.m.; Recreation Swim 3-4 p.m.; Lap Swim 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
**\*Wednesday:** Tiny Tots/Pre School 9:15-10 a.m.; Adult Lessons 10-10:45 a.m.; Water Exercise 10:50-11:50 a.m.; Lap Swim 12 noon-1 p.m.; Recreation Swim 2:30-3:45 p.m.; Youth Lessons Beg 4-4:40 p.m.; Youth Lessons 4:50-5:30 p.m.; Youth Stroke Clinic 5-6 p.m.  
**\*Thursday:** Schools 9:30-10:45 a.m.; Se-

niors/Special Needs 11 a.m.-12 noon; Lap Swim 12 noon-1 p.m.; Recreation Swim 2:30-4 p.m.; Lap Swim 4:30-5:30 p.m.

**\*Friday:** Schools 9:30-10:45 a.m.; Water Exercise 10:50-11:50 a.m.; Lap Swim 12 noon-1 p.m.; Recreation Swim 2:30-4 p.m.; Adult Lessons 4:15-5 p.m.; Youth Stroke Clinic 5-6 p.m.

**\*Saturday:** Pool Maintenance 7:30-9 a.m.; Youth Lessons 9:30-10:10 a.m.; Pre-School Swim/Tiny Tots 10:15-11:15 a.m.; Recreation Swim 11:30-1 p.m.; Lap Swim 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Pool is closed Sunday and Monday. \$4 exact fee or scrip ticket required for adult entrance (additional \$1 for classes). Youth swim lessons require registration through CLASS system.

## SF State Puts Kids on the Water



Young manners from the Valley spent a week in an SF State sailing program.

by Katherine Williams

Thanks to a generous scholarship program and a relationship with Real Options For City Kids, eight kids from Visitacion Valley had the opportunity to spend a week in the Community Sailing program at SF State.

The program took place at Lake Merced. The kids gathered early each day to spend the morning learning the basics about sailing.

The program at SF State has been in existence since 2003 to give all people a chance to learn

about sailing.

Students learn basic principles of sail trim, boat maneuvering, safety, and knots using a youth dinghy sailboat.

Thanks to ROCK and to SF State for give our kids a wonderful opportunity to experience sailing in the city.

To learn more about the SF State Community Sailing program see their website: <http://www.sfsu.edu/~recdept/sailing/index.htm> or call

415-405-2449. Also contact ROCK at 415-333-4031 or go to: [rocksf.org/](http://rocksf.org/)

## FREE RAFFLE

Win a copy of the book

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Clip and complete the coupon and drop it in the box

At the Used Book Table in front of Joe Leland's Coffee Shop

On Sunday, Sept. 14, Leland Avenue Street Fair

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Need not be present to win



## McLaren Park News and Notes

by Betty Parshall

### Philosopher's Walk Preview

The two artists who won the competition for Art in the Park, Peter Richards and Susan Schwartzberg, met eight community people to walk the trails of the proposed Philosopher's Walk. The weather was clear, a great day to admire the marvelous views from many vantage points in all directions. Starting from the parking lot at Visitation and Mansell, we walked the trails on the south side of Mansell that overlook Visitation Valley, the South Bay, and Sunnydale and across to San Bruno Mountain. Next we headed for the big field so popular with dog walkers. Here we had our most challenging moment crossing Mansell Street at the northern most intersection with Shelley Drive, where there is no traffic control other than the posted speed limit signs for 35 mph.

From there a short climb took us up the hill that overlooks the reservoir, where Peter first described how he first had the idea of developing the walk. Then we crossed Shelley Drive to walk through groves of trees that led up another fine view to the west (see the peace symbol carved out in the ground). We followed a trail through grassy fields that led us to the access road up to the Blue Tower. Although the Tower is not presently included on the plans most of the group opted to visit that site to enjoy the views and discuss its potential inclusion. The three among us who had dogs decided to go back down to the reservoir so Yayo, Rory, Raven and Hope could cool off in the water and have a good drink.

There will be further discussion about the trail layout, since the proposal had two possible crossings on Mansell, both hazardous to pedestrians. There have also been a couple of other changes suggested, e.g. where there are parallel trails should it be the lower or higher? But overall, this walk will be a great benefit to visitors who want to enjoy all the natural features of the park with the occasional descriptive plaque and benches along the way for rest, relaxation and viewing.

### McNabb Milfoil to be Foiled?

If in the near future you notice that the McNabb Lake level is low, it is because the lake will be deliberately drained to about a foot lower than normal. The Recreation and Park Department has been given the OK to treat the lake with Sonar, a chemical killer that attacks only milfoil and a couple of other invasive water plants. The treatment requires that the Sonar infused water not be drained for a certain period, so the level will be lowered to accommodate any heavy rainfall or runoff from irrigation that may enter McNabb during the treatment time.

We hope the treatment will end the workdays where volunteers pull piles of the choking weed out of the water only to have it quickly rebound.

### Recycle-Garbage Site Issue

The latest word on the proposed recycling and garbage-sorting proposal is that the Housing Authority and a Rec & Park planner are now looking for possible sites within Sunnydale for the facility. The Friends of McLaren Park and other groups and individuals continue to monitor the commission meetings and will keep the community advised. Thanks go to all the people who sent e-mails and letters to the Rec & Park Commission objecting to using parkland for this purpose.

Remember to use Park Scan to report park maintenance problems: [www.parkscan.org](http://www.parkscan.org)

## Shakespeare for Young Thespians



Young actors performed *The Winter's Tale* at Jerry Garcia Amphitheatre.

by Katherine Williams

Over thirty kids spent two July weeks flexing their acting muscles in the Bay Area Shakespeare Camp.

The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, an organization that puts on Shakespeare plays around the Bay Area, spend two weeks teaching kids of all ages about putting on a Shakespeare play.

The camp has several locations and two sessions took place this summer at Jerry Garcia Amphitheatre in McLaren Park. Campers spend two weeks learning about acting, stage presence, directing and even stage manage-

ment, all with the end goal of acting out a short part of one of Shakespeare's plays.

Family and friends gather on the last day of camp to witness their performances and celebrate all of the hard work.

On August 1, the actors presented *Adventures of Pericles*, *Twelfth Night* and *The Winter's Tale*. The kids were proud of their accomplishment and excited to present their plays that included homemade costumes and props.

For more information about the camp and free Shakespeare around the bay go to [sfshakes.org](http://sfshakes.org).

## Demolition Soon For Schlage Lock

From Page 1

Thus, there will not be the danger of contaminated dust from inside the buildings blowing into the neighborhood and excessive noise during the abatement.

For some time, there will be little evidence of the clean up going on inside the buildings. There will be trucks carrying the contaminated materials away to hazardous waste sites according to a traffic plan and that process is heavily regulated by the DTSC and the Department of Transportation. Nevertheless, residents must monitor this process closely.

It is hoped that this initial hazardous materials abatement, which is not yet under the Redevelopment Agency jurisdiction concerning local hiring requirements, will be done by hiring many of our local residents. After the area is declared a Redevelopment Area, S.F. residents, if possible, under goals set by the Agency, would perform up to 50 percent of the demolition work on site, with special consideration to 94134 residents.

There will be job training opportunities in the future for which more information will be available later. Since the demolition and clean-up contracts were not negotiated under Redevelopment Agency rules, meeting the hiring goals are voluntary at this time and the contractors will do their best to meet these goals. (It should be pointed out that the development work after the cleanup takes place will meet all the Agency requirements). It is important that we stay on top of this situation to insure Visitation Valley residents in need of work are given proper training and employment.

After the inside clean up is completed, the building demolition will begin, hopefully in the fall when the EIR is certified. There will be an effort to recycle as much of the clean demolition materials as possible to be reused on site. On their last job, Brownfield Partners recycled 86 percent of the recyclable materials. The uncontaminated concrete will be ground up (like gravel) to use in grading on site.

Prior to beginning the clean-up effort, there will be a public process to review the Remedial Action Plan (RAP). The Public Participation Process (PPP) actually has been ongoing since early June with the survey of existing conditions and will continue throughout the cleanup process.

The RAP will be completed in mid-October with a 30-day period for public comment. Once approved, there will be further engineering plans and then, hopefully, the demolition will be completed by early summer 2009, and clean up under the building foundations will begin.

According to Mary Hashem, in terms of remediation, there has to be a data gap investigation and treatability study done to figure out exactly what remediation method

## Reception for Artists In Residence at the San Francisco Dump

*Ref/Use and Tell Me Your Story*, the culmination of a four-month residency in which artists Barbara Holmes and Casey Logan made art from San Francisco's discards, will hold a reception on two days: Friday, Sept. 26 from 5 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 27 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Art Studio located at 503 Tunnel Ave.

The exhibition features two separate bodies of three-dimensional work that was inspired by and composed of salvaged materials from the public disposal area at SF Recycling & Disposal, Inc., a subsidiary of Norcal Waste Systems.

Admission is free and open to the public and all ages encouraged. The studio is wheel-chair accessible.

works best. There are two basic methods to treat the groundwater contamination and there must be studies done over a period of time to determine which method or combined methods will work best. The existing vapor extraction system will be decommissioned soon, prior to demolition.

The most contaminated soil will be shipped off site and the less contaminated soil will be cleaned and reused on site after being cleaned with either above ground vapor extraction or microbes, or a combination of both methods.

It is estimated that between 5,000-8,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil will be taken off site. The City, DTSC and our community will monitor all of the above demolition and remediation processes closely. There will be monthly status reports from the developer to DTSC, which will be available to the public.

After the VVPA meeting, UPC held a well-attended community celebration at the Old Office Building (which was open to the public) at Blanken Avenue and Bayshore Boulevard. Steve Hanson, General Manager, from UPC spoke briefly about the demolition/clean up, planning process and future plans for the site. Supervisor Sophie Maxwell spoke about the long battle to get to this point and the important role the community played by persevering to bring open space, retail, housing and community amenities to the site. There were information tables, refreshments and a bus tour of the site.

When the permits are obtained to

begin demolition of the buildings, UPC will host another community event at the site. We will keep you posted.

### DTSC Meetings

At the DTSC Citizen's Advisory Group for the Brisbane Baylands meeting held August 19, there was a DTSC staff presentation concerning Schlage Lock and the plans for a series of upcoming meetings to create a Public Participation Plan (PPP) to inform the community about the Remediation activities at Schlage Lock.

Please see the accompanying DTSC Fact Sheet on Page 9. The public will be able to get information about the clean up process from both UPC and DTSC in the coming months.

There will be another similar presentation at the Visitation Valley Redevelopment Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Tuesday, September 9 at the Recycling Education Center at 401 Tunnel Avenue, 6-8 p.m. For further information about the Redevelopment CAC, please contact Tom Evans at [Tom.Evans@sfgov.org](mailto:Tom.Evans@sfgov.org).

DTSC staff is tentatively scheduled to do a presentation at the next Visitation Valley Planning Alliance (VVPA) meeting on September 13. VVPA meets monthly on the second Saturday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Visitation Valley Community Center, 66 Raymond Avenue. There will be continuing presentations concerning Schlage Lock and other Valley planning issues as there have been since 1999. For further information, please call Fran Martin, 468-0639.

## Visitation Valley History Project

by Betty Parshall

### Valley Celebrations of the Past

With the Third Annual Leland Street Fair coming up in a couple of weeks (mark your calendars, Sunday, September 14) it's fun to look back on some of the many fairs and other celebratory events that have enlivened life in the Valley over the years.

A memorable event for Visitation Valley residents and for the entire city took place on May 1, 1927, when a huge crowd gathered on the hill to celebrate the dedication of land for McLaren Park. Homage was paid to Miss Elizabeth Stagnaro who was elected Queen of the Park by the people of San Francisco. Oral historian Anna Stuart Johnson remembered riding on one of the floats, playing her violin. She was 12 years old. The Community Center also entered a float filled with cheering youngsters. We don't know what route the parade took, but I have seen a photograph of this float on a built-up street clearly not in Visitation Valley.

We also know that 1927 was the year that flats of eucalyptus seedlings were planted in McLaren Park resulting in thick groves of this tree throughout the park, to the dismay of current-day native plant advocates.

In 1929 the opening ceremonies for the reconfigured and widened Bayshore Boulevard brought out not only crowds of spectators but also a flood of cars driving the new and improved road. Elizabeth Ghirardo served as queen of this event. What would those folks think of Bayshore Boulevard traffic now?

In 1954 *The Visitation Guide*, a predecessor of the *Grapevine*, featured advertisements for Pioneer Days held in the Valley "May 15 to the 24th inclusive." The front page announced: "An Old Spanish Night in the Valley featuring the Hurtado Brothers' Marimba Band and Viola and Flemming Orem. This Pioneer Event sponsored by the Visitation Fiesta Committee will open Pioneer Days for 1954 with a BANG. The internationally famous Hurtado Bros. Marimba Band with Flemming Orem is known to everyone. Viola Orem is really a dream singing. This type of entertainment will guarantee success. Enchiladas and fried beans will be served buffet style at your leisure and hungry mood."

Jay Neal has been elected Chairman of the forty Committee group, Miss Angie Luccini, Treasurer, Mrs. Alma Taylor, Secretary ... Its theme will be one of valley neighborliness and recognition of the many Pioneer Events of Valley history, with emphasis on the Community Center and the building fund."

Another event was a Barn Social at the Bonvitas Hall on May 22nd. It must have been quite a busy and fun-filled week.

St. James Presbyterian Church sponsored an International Fair at the Visitation Valley playground in 1970. This fair featured a parade led by the 6th Army band through the Valley, entertainment by Indian, Samoan and American dance groups, other performers including a puppet show, a variety of ethnic food booths, and games for all ages.

Celebrating the US Bicentennial in 1976, the All Peoples' Coalition sponsored a parade (led by the US Navy Band) ending at the park, where a wide variety of foods, games and entertainment were enjoyed by the crowd. Mayor George Moscone put in an appearance. The event won a Bicentennial prize in the contest offered to communities commemorating our country's birthday.

The Visitation Valley Community Center has sponsored many neighborhood street fairs over the years. While time did not permit thorough research on the subject, we found a reference to the 13th annual street festival held on May 17th, 1997, and there have been several such events since then. The Center will be participating in the Leland Avenue Fair along with other community groups and businesses, so we hope that all of our readers will be part of this time-honored tradition of neighbors celebrating where we live.



## EarthTalk

### Changing That Oil

Dear EarthTalk: How often do I really need to change my car's oil? Conventional wisdom has always put it at every 3,000 miles to prevent engine wear, but isn't changing oil that frequently wasteful and unnecessary? Also, what is the "greenest" and longest-lasting oil I should use? -Vic Roberts, Lincoln, MA

There is much debate in the automotive world over how often drivers of typical passenger cars or light trucks should change their oil. The quick-lube chains usually recommend it be done every three months or 3,000 miles, but many mechanics would tell you that such frequent changes are overkill. Indeed, most car owner's manuals recommend changing out the oil less frequently, usually after 5,000 or 7,500 miles.

According to the automotive website Edmunds.com, the answer depends more on driving patterns than anything else. Those who rarely drive more than 10 miles at a time (which doesn't get the oil hot enough to boil off moisture condensation) or who start their car frequently when the oil isn't hot (when most engine wear occurs) should change their oil more often—at least twice a year, even if that's every 1,000 miles, according to Edmunds. But commuters who drive more than 20 miles a day on mostly flat freeway can go as far as their owner's manual recommends, if not longer, between changes. As a car ages, more frequent changes might be in order, but that's for a qualified mechanic to decide on a case-by-case basis.

"The necessity of 3,000 mile oil changes is a myth that has been handed down for decades," writes Austin Davis, proprietor of the website TrustMyMechanic.com. He says that the economics of the oil change industry demand pushing customers to get their oil changed more frequently—purportedly as "cheap insurance" against problems cropping up—whether they need it or not. One of the largest oil change chains, Jiffy Lube, for instance, is owned by Pennzoil-Quaker State, and as such has an incentive to sell as much of the company's traditional petroleum-based oil as possible.

One way to reduce trips to and money spent unnecessarily on quick-lube outlets is to switch to synthetic oils, which last longer and perform better than their traditional petroleum-based counterparts. Davis says that educated drivers should opt for longer lasting, better performing synthetic oils, which are "most likely good for 10,000 to 15,000 miles or six months" whether or not their manufacturers recommend more frequent changes or not. Some synthetic motor oils, like Amsoil, NEO and Red Line, to name a few, are created specifically to last 25,000 miles or one year before needing a change.

While neither conventional nor synthetic motor oils are good for the environment if disposed of improperly or spilled, most environmentalists would opt for the latter since it lasts three or more times longer and thus reduces waste (or energy use if recycled). Researchers have been experimenting with producing greener motor oils—one pilot project out of Purdue University has produced high-quality, carbon-neutral motor oil from canola crops—but consumers should not expect to see such products on store or garage shelves anytime soon, as the costs of production are high and the availability of cropland is limited. But the very existence of such alternatives—no doubt more are in the offing—bodes well for the future as oil becomes more scarce and expensive.

Dear EarthTalk: How does congestion toll pricing, used in some cities around the world, cut down on vehicle traffic and promote green-friendly public transit? -Bill Higley, via e-mail

Despite increasing green awareness and steadily rising gasoline prices, Americans and other deni-

zens of the developed world—not to mention millions of new Chinese and Indian drivers hitting the road every week—are loath to give up the freedom and privacy of their personal automobiles. But snarled traffic, longer commute times and rising pollution levels have given city transportation planners new ammunition in their efforts to encourage the use of clean, energy-efficient public transit. One of the newest tools in their arsenal is so-called congestion pricing (also called variable toll pricing), whereby cars and trucks are hit with higher tolls if they access central urban areas at traditionally congested times.

Singapore was the world's first major city to employ congestion pricing in 1975 when it began charging drivers \$3 to bring their vehicles into the city's central business district. The system has since expanded citywide, with toll rates at several locations changing over the course of a day. Funds generated by the program have allowed Singapore to expand and improve public transit and keep traffic at an optimal flow. Some of the tangible benefits of the program, according to Environmental Defense, include a 45 percent traffic reduction, a 10 miles-per-hour increase in average driving speed, 25 percent fewer accidents, 176,000 fewer pounds of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emitted, and a 20 percent increase in public transit usage.

London implemented a similar plan in 2003 that was so successful it was extended to some outlying parts

of the city in 2007. Today, drivers pay \$13 to bring their vehicles into certain sections of London during peak traffic hours. According to the Victoria Transport Policy Institute, London's plan has significantly reduced traffic, improved bus service and generated substantial revenues. Environmental Defense says the plan reduced congestion by 30 percent, increased traffic speed by 37 percent, removed 12 percent of pollutants from the air and cut fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 20 percent.

A 2006 congestion pricing experiment in Stockholm produced similar results, shrinking commute times significantly, reducing pollution noticeably and increasing public transit use during a seven-month test. The day after the trial ended, traffic jams reappeared, so Stockholm voters passed a referendum to reinstate the plan. Today the city has one of the most extensive congestion pricing systems in the world.

Perhaps the next major city to implement congestion pricing will be New York, if Mayor Michael Bloomberg gets his way. In July 2007, the state legislature rejected Bloomberg's first such proposal—which would have used funds collected to pay for expansions and improvements to the regional public transit system—but ever-increasing congestion and pollution might force lawmakers' hand in the future.

"A congestion pricing plan is the most cost-effective way to jump-start transit improvements and reduce traffic congestion," says Wiley

Norvell of Transportation Alternatives, one of a handful of groups working with Bloomberg to craft a version of the plan that will fly with state lawmakers. With two-thirds of New Yorkers opposed, it looks like an uphill battle for now, but advocates say passing such rules is inevitable.

Dear EarthTalk: I've read that plastic bottles are not always safe to reuse over and over as harmful chemicals can leach out into the contents. I'm wondering if the same issues plague Tupperware and other similar plastic food storage containers. -Sylvie, Dawson City, Yukon, Canada

The recent hubbub over plastic containers leaching chemicals into food and drinks has cast a pall over all kinds of plastics that come into contact with what we ingest, whether deserved or not. Some conscientious consumers are forsaking all plastics entirely out of health concerns. But while it is true that exposure to certain chemicals found in some plastics has been linked to various human health problems (especially certain types of cancer and reproductive disorders), only a small percentage of plastics contain them.

According to The Green Guide, a website and magazine devoted to greener living and owned by the National Geographic Society, the safest plastics for repeated use in storing food are made from high-density polyethylene (HDPE, or plastic #2), low-density polyethylene (LDPE, or plastic #4) and polypropylene (PP, or plastic #5). Most

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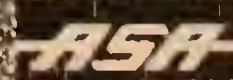
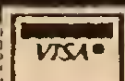
Tupperware products are made of LDPE or PP, and as such are considered safe for repeated use storing food items and cycling through the dishwasher. Most food storage products from Glad, Hefty, Ziploc and Saran also pass The Green Guide's muster for health safety.

But consumers should be aware of more than just a few "safe" brands, as most companies make several product lines featuring different types of plastics. While the vast majority of Tupperware products are considered safe, for example, some of its food storage containers use polycarbonate (plastic #7), which has been shown to leach the harmful hormone-disrupting chemical Bisphenol A (BPA) into food items after repeated uses. Consumers concerned about such risks might want to avoid the following polycarbonate-based Tupperware products: the Rock 'N' Serve microwave line, the Meals-in-Minutes Microsteamer, the "Elegant" Serving Line, the TupperCare baby bottle, the Pizza Keep' N Heat container, and the Table Collection (the last three are no longer made but might still be kicking around your kitchen). Beyond BPA, other chemicals can be found in various food storage containers.

Containers made out of polyethylene terephthalate (PET or PETE, or plastic #1)—such as most soda bottles—are OK to use once, but can leach carcinogenic, hormone-disrupting phthalates when used over and over again. See Page 6

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## May May Beauty Salon Happiness Makes for Good Business



May May has operated her beauty salon on Leland Avenue for 19 years.

by Nick Wolff

Nineteen years ago, May May decided to establish her business, *May May Beauty Salon* in Visitation Valley. Since then she has become one of the oldest merchants on Leland Avenue.

May May journeyed from Vietnam to San Francisco with her family in 1979 in hopes of establishing a better life for her children.

May May has devoted her whole life to a being a professional hair dresser, a career that has spanned over 50 years. Her career began as a child, as she was inspired by her brother to do hair at a young age. She finally knew she would have an opportunity to express her talent and passion as a hair dresser when she opened her beauty salon on Leland Avenue.

May May loves having her beauty salon on Leland Avenue because of all the friendly and respectful neighbors who surround her. Her professional and friendly customer service has resulted in a large customer base. Many of her regular and new customers walk in and enjoy chatting with her. She enjoys every conversation she has with her customers which made her well known in Visitation Valley, especially among Chinese population. May May insists her cus-

tomers not only bring her business, but also happiness.

Living on Leland Avenue for 19 years, May May knows this neighborhood as well as anybody. She has seen Leland Avenue through the best and not-so-best of times. Her favorite part of the neighborhood is the kindness she receives from almost everyone she meets. Her biggest concern as a business owner is safety.

She has witnessed a few unpleasant experiences (including theft) in her 19 years which is not only a concern for May May, but fellow merchants and neighbors as well.

Through it all, May May didn't give up on Leland Avenue or Visitation Valley — determined to stay with hopes of change.

May May's perseverance has paid off, as she's recently seen positive progress. She has noticed an increased police presence and took advantage of the opportunity to meet with Ingleside Police Captain Denis O'Leary to express her concerns and ways to make the neighborhood safer.

She knows safety on Leland Avenue will continue to improve and businesses will prosper. A safe community will bring good business — this is what May May believes.

## Fun Day of Gardening in Visitation Valley

Join the San Francisco Parks Trust and volunteers at the Visitation Valley Greenway for a fun day of gardening and community building on Saturday, Sept. 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Everyone will meet on Arleta Avenue, midblock between Alpha and Rutland streets. Just bring yourself

and the Department of Public Works will provide all needed tools. The San Francisco Parks Trust will provide a free lunch.

Call (415) 750-5110 or email: [jasmine@sfpt.org](mailto:jasmine@sfpt.org) to RSVP or receive monthly updates. Spaces are limited, so please RSVP by Wednesday Sept. 18.

## EarthTalk

From Page 5

Also, many deli items come wrapped in plastic made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC, or plastic #3), which can leach cancer-causing dioxins. Swapping foods out of such wraps once the groceries are at home is advisable.

Containers made of polystyrene (PS, or plastic #6, also known as Styrofoam) can also be dangerous, as its base component, styrene, has been associated with skin, eye and respiratory irritation, depression, fatigue, compromised kidney function, and central nervous system damage. Take-out restaurant orders often come in polystyrene containers, which also should be emptied into safer containers once you get them home.

If your head is spinning and you can't bear to examine the bottom of yet another plastic food storage container for its recycling number, go with glass. Pyrex, for instance, does not contain chemicals that can leach into food. Of course, such items can break into glass shards if dropped. But most consumers would gladly trade the risk of chemical contamination for the risk of breakage any day.

## Reopening of Crocker Amazon Soccer Fields

Mark your calendar for an afternoon of family fun and athletic activities on Sunday, Sept. 21 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the newly renovated Crocker Amazon soccer fields.

There will be fun games and prizes, tasty snacks, and special guests at the park on Geneva Avenue between Prague and Stoneridge streets. A ribbon cutting will take place at 2 p.m.

Don't miss out! Be first on your block to play on the new fields!

## Saturdays are Special at Randall Museum

The Randall Museum offers drop-in, hands-on art and science workshops every Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. at 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above the Castro).

Workshops are \$3 per child; \$5 for a parent and child combo.

All kids under 8 must be with a paying adult. Call 554-9600 for further information.

\*Sept. 6: Draw and cut out your own stencil to print your own fabric banner.

\*Sept. 13: Explore geometric art around the world by making "Kolams" from India and Islamic geometric patterns.

\*Sept. 20: Use wood, wire and clay to make a beautiful wire sculpture.

\*Sept. 27: Celebrate Fall. Welcome the coming Autumn equinox with colorful leaf prints.

## Book Reviews

### Bridging the Golden Gate

The Golden Gate Bridge is a marvel of engineering and architecture considered by many to be one of the world's most beautiful bridges, its picturesque vistas favored by photographers, artists, visitors to San Francisco, and almost everyone else.

When naysayers said it couldn't be built, Joseph Strauss and a team of visionaries spun 80,000 miles of wire and riveted nearly 900,000 tons of steel into gossamer wings, spanning for the first time an immense gulf and linking the Pacific coast.

In black-and-white photography, *Historic Photos of the Golden Gate Bridge* (Turner Publishing, \$39.95) details the history of the bridge from its design and construction to recent times.

Nearly 200 rarely seen images offer a compelling look at the bridge, from the days when the treacherous currents of the Golden Gate could be crossed only by boat to the rise of the bridge as a national landmark.

"I became a historian because of a lifelong interest in why things happen the way they did and an intense curiosity about the way people thought," explained author Anne Merritt. "Did they look at things the same way we do now?" acquaintance with bridges.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania another city with numerous bridges spanning its three rivers and daughter of an engineer, she appreciates how much effort a big project can require in time, funding, and labor. A resident of the San Francisco bay area since 1989, she enjoys fre-

quent glimpses of the Golden Gate Bridge. Watching the sun set behind the bridge from the Oakland hills remains, she thinks, one of the best ways to end a day.

### School Bully Needs Help

Thirty percent of children in the United States are involved in school bullying according to National Youth Violence Prevention. That is 5.7 million American children who either are bullies or are picked on at school.

"We've forgotten to raise our kids with kindness," says Aaron Taylor, father and author of the new book *The Pumpkin Goblin Makes Friends* (Greenleaf Publishing, \$16.95). Taylor could blame the changing dynamic of the American family or he could point the finger at the internet for making bullying less personal. "It doesn't matter to me why kids pick on each other," he says. "I just want to be able to help stop it."

Scholastic.com suggests the budding bully needs as much attention as the child who is being victimized. The website reports that being the aggressor as a pre-teen is likely to inhibit positive relationships later in life. In short, the school bully is just as likely to grow up traumatized as the victim.

Taylor's book *The Pumpkin Goblin Makes Friends* is about a monster with a child's heart who is inspired to stop picking on neighborhood children and to start mending the relationships he had damaged. "I feel it is very important for children to learn about the harmful affects of bullying at a young age," says Taylor. "If we can reach them before they experience it first-hand, our children will be able to identify and prevent this destructive behavior."

A Columbia University study finds bullying now starts as young as pre-school and intensifies as the angry child ages. More girls bully than boys, but boys tend to be more physical in their attacks. The study goes on to suggest the reason for bullying is the same as the result of it: low self esteem and a lack of friends.

"Reaching kids on their own level is the only way to stop the cycle," says Taylor. "I geared this book toward young children to show them how unhappy the Pumpkin Goblin is when he picks on the neighborhood children. It isn't until a little boy befriends him that the big bully realizes how much nicer it is to have friends rather than people who are afraid of you. A central message here is picking on others doesn't make your pain go away."

As with most children books, the moral is hidden among rhyming prose and colorful pictures. Taylor suggests reading the book with your young children.

"Give them the tools to not be a bully and give them the ideas of how to make a bully into a friend rather than a rival. Kindness and respect isn't just the best thing for the kid being attacked — it's the best thing for the bully too."

## Cooking Corner

### Cheddar Chicken and Vegetable Skillet

1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into thin strips; 2 Tbsp. *I Can't Believe It's Not Butter!* spread; 1 small tomato, chopped; 1 clove garlic, finely chopped; 1-3/4 cups water; 1/2 cup milk; 1 package Knorr Sides Plus Veggies-Cheddar Cheese Pasta with Broccoli & Carrots.

Melt spread in 12-inch nonstick skillet over medium-high heat and cook chicken 5 minutes or until thoroughly cooked; remove.

Stir in tomato and cook 3 minutes. Stir in garlic and cook 30 seconds.

Stir in water and milk; bring to a boil. Stir in Knorr Pasta Sides Plus Veggies and continue boiling over medium heat, stirring occasionally, 9 minutes or until pasta is tender. Stir in chicken; heat through. *NAPS*

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## Visitacion Valley Police Report

### Police Cases

\*On July 27 at 5:15 a.m. on the 1900 block of Sunnydale Avenue, an officer investigated an attempted homicide wherein a 21 year-old Sunnydale woman and her friend were shot at by the first woman's ex-boyfriend. An officer found the culprit on the 1900 block of Sunnydale Avenue and arrested the 38 year-old San Francisco man. He was charged with two counts of attempted murder and a local misdemeanor warrant.

\*On July 30 at 9:45 a.m. on the corner of San Bruno Avenue and Wayland St., a citizen reported that he had been robbed by an unknown suspect with a gun. The suspect asked the victim what he had. The victim replied, "Nothing." The suspect then threatened to shoot the victim and left the area. The victim was not injured during the incident. No arrest was made. At 9:45 p.m. near Brookdale Avenue and Santos Street, an officer and posse heard shots fired in Sunnydale and saw people running. They gave chase but lost sight of two of the subjects. Officers found two Sunnydale teens hiding in the bushes near Visitacion Avenue and Hahn Street. One of the teens had a loaded gun in his pocket. Another loaded pistol was found were the second teen had been seen. A third gun, a fully automatic submachine pistol, was found abandoned behind an apartment on the 1700 block of Sunnydale Avenue. The two teenage males were brought to the Juvenile Justice Center and surrendered to a probation officer.

\*On July 31 at 10:40 a.m. on the 100 block of Blythdale Avenue, an anonymous caller reported burglary in progress. Suspects were seen breaking rear window of apartment. Officers found a television missing from a residence. The victim was unavailable and a message was left requesting contact. The premises was secured. At 5:30 p.m. on Bacon Street at San Bruno Avenue, a citizen reported that she had been robbed while on the bus. The victim stated that an unknown person took her backpack containing a laptop, a school book and some papers. The victim did not see who took her pack and was not injured during the robbery. No arrest was made.

\*On Aug. 3 at 12:35 a.m. on Bayshore Boulevard, and Sunnydale Avenue, an officer investigated a call of a child being beaten by an adult on a Muni bus. He found the bus and its driver and soon located the child and his grandmother. The officer

arrested the grandmother, a 42 year old Sunnydale woman, for child abuse and released the child to its mother per the Child Protective Services. At 7 a.m. on the 200 block of Brookdale Avenue, an officer investigated a fight inside a cab. The cabbie had struck and threatened the life of his daughter's boyfriend. The cabbie, a 59 year-old outer Mission District man, was arrested and charged with battery and criminal threats. At 3:20 p.m. on the 200 block of Blythdale Avenue, an officer found a stolen rental car and arrested its operator, a 48 year-old Visitacion Valley woman. At 11 p.m. on the 200 block of Teddy Avenue, two residents of Visitacion Valley were robbed at gun point by two suspects on the sidewalk. The robbers fled with the victims' goods.

\*On Aug. 4 at 11:30 p.m. on Talbert Street, an officer investigated a disturbance and arrested a 35 year-old Sunnydale man for felony child abuse.

\*On Aug. 5 at 3 p.m. on the 200 block of Leland Avenue, a 40 year-old Visitacion Valley woman surrendered to an officer on a misdemeanor warrant. She was booked into the county jail.

\*On Aug. 6 at 7:15 a.m. at Hahn Street and Blythdale Avenue, a 22 year-old Sunnydale man was approached by an armed gunman as he walked home. The robber demanded the victim's money but the victim successfully resisted the robbery. The victim ran from the robber only to be confronted by his assailant again on the 500 block of Sawyer Street. The victim and the robber fought once more and the gunman struck the victim in the head with the gun. The robber made off with the victim's backpack and its contents. At 8:10 a.m. on Heritage Street, officers investigated a stolen car incident in which the victim recovered her car but suspected her 14 year-old niece of the theft. The niece's juvenile probation officer requested the arrest of the niece for violating terms of her probation. The officers located the niece and arrested her after a short struggle. The niece was surrendered to the probation officer at the Juvenile Justice Center. At 10:20 a.m. on the 900 block of Rutland Street, a resident awoke to sounds of another person in her home. She called 911 because no one was supposed to be there. An officer investigated and determined that the resident's brother had been coerced by an acquaintance into breaking into one of the home's locked rooms. No loss was reported. At 10:30 a.m. on the 700 block of Sunnydale Avenue, officers located a trespasser acting erratically in front of a school. The man assaulted the officers and was quickly subdued. One of the officers sprained her hand during the arrest. The 58 year-old Visitacion

Valley man was charged with battery and trespassing. At 5:40 p.m. on the 1900 block of Sunnydale Avenue, two Bayview District brothers were robbed of their cash and their car by a gunman. An officer investigated and identified a suspect. Another officer saw the stolen car and followed in to Watchman Way. The suspect eluded the officer.

\*On Aug. 8 at 1:20 a.m. on the 600 block of University Street, an officer investigated suspicious activity inside a parked car and arrested a 21 year-old San Francisco man for stealing the car. The car's owner came to the scene to recover his car and recognized the perpetrator as a former neighbor. At 6 a.m. on Hahn Street and Sunnydale Avenue, two men walking home from a bus stop were robbed at gunpoint by two robbers. The culprits fled into a wooded area with the victims' belongings. At 12 noon on the 100 block of Arleta Avenue, a resident received a phone call from a person claiming to be her "favorite grandson." He asked her to wire him money as he had been involved in a traffic accident in another state. The man ended the call when the woman pressed him for details. She made contact with her true grandson who stated that he had not made the call. At 10:10 p.m. a resident of the 1100 block of Bacon Street was robbed as she entered her home. After the victim parked her car in the driveway she began to walk to her door. She saw a large vehicle pull up in front of her house and the passenger got out approached her, grabbed her by the neck and chest and forced her to the ground. The suspect grabbed her purse and fled in the waiting get away car. The victim was only able to give a vague description of her attacker and the vehicle.

\*On Aug. 9 at 10:30 p.m. at Sunnydale Avenue and Santos Street, a man and a woman argued about their relationship and the man produced a gun. The woman ran for her life and a police sergeant saw the pair running on the sidewalk. He stopped the man and found him carrying a pellet gun and a knife. The 49 year-old Sunnydale man was charged with making criminal threats and possessing prohibited weapons.

\*On Aug. 10 at 11:35 p.m. on the 200 block of Blythdale Avenue, a 46 year-old Sunnydale man was charged with making criminal threats in a domestic violence incident.

\*On Aug. 13 at 1:15 a.m. on the 300 block of Velasco Avenue, a man walking home was approached by two robbers at his doorstep. One simulated having a gun while demanding the victim's money. The second man struck the victim and the two robbers fled with the victim's cash. At 6:25 a.m. on the 100 block of Leland Avenue, a local merchant was confronted by two men as he opened his business. One of the men produced a handgun and demanded the

victim's money. The victim complied with the demand and the two robbers fled. An officer saw one of the robbers on a Muni bus and arrested a 49 year-old Western Addition man after a foot chase on Blythdale Avenue. The officer recovered cash and a replica handgun in the man's jacket. The victim identified the man as the robber with the gun. The man was booked for robbery and his parole was violated. At 4 p.m. at Geneva Avenue and Santos Street, a 20 year-old Visitacion Valley man was robbed of his iPod by a suspect at a Muni bus stop. At 7:23 p.m. on the 2000 block of Geneva Avenue, an officer investigated a disturbance and identified a Crocker Amazon man as a suspect in a domestic violence case.

\*On Aug. 15 at 8:45 a.m. on Visitacion Avenue at Schwerin Street, an 18 year-old black male (5'9" 150 pounds, wearing a white t-shirt and orange basketball shorts) grabbed a purse from the shoulder of a 76 year-old Visitacion Valley woman. The suspect fled on foot.

\*On Aug. 16 at 4 p.m. on Velasco Avenue and Santos Street, officers stopped a motorist for an equipment violation and found that the 19 year-old Bayview District man was driving with a suspended license. They impounded the car and found a loaded gun inside. The man was arrested.

### Police Summaries

\*July 19: First block of Burr Ave., grand theft from locked auto.  
\*July 19: First block of Teddy Ave., burglary of residence, forcible entry.  
\*July 19: Peninsula Ave. near Lathrop Ave., battery  
\*July 20: First block of Burr Ave., grand theft from building.  
\*July 20: Santos St. near Brookdale Ave., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles.  
\*July 21: San Bruno Ave. between Felton and Silliman Sts., malicious mischief, vandalism.  
\*July 22: Silver Ave. near Hamilton St., robbery on street, strongarm.  
\*July 22: Silliman and Hamilton Sts., stolen automobile.  
\*July 22: 1500 block of Sunnydale Ave., battery  
\*July 22: 1700 block of Sunnydale Ave., burglary of apartment house, forcible entry.  
\*July 22: 1700 block of Sunnydale Ave., burglary of apartment house, forcible entry  
\*July 23: Burrows and Goettingen Sts., stolen truck.  
\*July 23: First block of Brookdale Ave., stolen automobile.  
\*July 23: Mansell St. near John F. Shelley Dr., grand theft from locked auto.  
\*July 24: Santos St. and Geneva Ave., burglary of apartment house, unlawful entry  
\*July 24: Santos St. and Geneva Ave., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles  
\*July 24: Blythdale Ave. and Santos St., possession of marijuana for sales.  
\*July 25: 5:10 a.m., Teddy St. and San Bruno Ave., strongarm robbery  
\*July 25: 11:40 a.m., 1700 Visitacion Ave., investigative detention.  
\*July 25: 5:25 p.m., 1700 block of Sunnydale Ave., criminal threats.  
\*July 25: 5:30 p.m., First block of Burr Ave., theft from residence, wallet.  
\*July 25: 9:10 p.m., 2100 block of Bayshore Blvd., battery on Muni.  
\*July 25: 1700 block of Sunnydale Ave., burglary of residence, attempted forcible entry  
\*July 25: First block of Blythdale Ave., possession of cocaine for sales.

\*July 25: First block of Blythdale Ave., possession of amphetamine for sales.  
\*July 25: Teddy Ave. and Alpha St., robbery on street, strongarm.  
\*July 26: 3:30 p.m., McLaren Park, auto burglary  
\*July 26: 3:50 p.m., First block of Blythdale Ave., auto burglary  
\*July 26: 9 p.m., 1700 block of Sunnydale Ave., shots fired  
\*July 26: Mansell St. near John F. Shelley Dr., petty theft from locked auto.  
\*July 26: First block of Blythdale Ave., petty theft from locked auto.  
\*July 27: 2:57 a.m., 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., shots fired, parked vehicle struck.  
\*July 27: 3:35 p.m., 300 block of Leland Ave., violation of stay away order.  
\*July 27: 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., attempted homicide with gun.  
\*July 28: 7:30 a.m., 100 block of Brookdale Ave., shots fired, occurred between July 26 and 28, parked car struck.  
\*July 28: 9 a.m., McLaren Park, vandalism to parked car.  
\*July 28: 400 block of Sunrise Way, mental health intervention.  
\*July 28: Velasco Ave. and Sawyer St., stolen automobile.  
\*July 28: Silliman and Girard Sts., robbery on street with gun.  
\*July 28: John F. Shelley Dr. near Mansell St., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles.  
\*July 29: 12:15 p.m., 500 block of Visitacion Ave., '87 Honda Accord stolen.  
\*July 29: 2:30 p.m., Calgary St. and Velasco Ave., '93 Oldsmobile Cutlass stolen.  
\*July 29: 5:40 p.m., First block of Brookdale Ave., shots fired into building.  
\*July 29: San Bruno Ave. near Felton St., attempted homicide with gun.  
\*July 29: Visitacion Ave. and Bayshore Blvd., stolen automobile.  
\*July 29: 100 block of Raymond Ave., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles.  
\*July 30: 5:20 p.m., 300 block of Harkness Ave., criminal threats, suspect known.  
\*July 30: Teddy Ave. and Delta St., stolen truck.  
\*July 31: Sunnydale Ave. and Cora St., stolen automobile.  
\*July 31: Silliman and Somerset Sts., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles.  
\*July 31: 100 block of Blythdale Ave., burglary of apartment house, forcible entry  
\*July 31: 6:40 p.m., 100 block of Blythdale Ave., assault to rape with bodily force.  
\*July 31: Delta St. between Raymond and Leland Aves., grand theft auto strip  
\*Aug. 1: 7 a.m., 100 block of Raymond Ave., vandalism, parked car, occurred between 12 midnight and 6 a.m.  
\*Aug. 1: 7:30 a.m., 500 block of Delta St., vehicle strip, occurred between July 31 and Aug. 1, two wheels and tires taken from parked car.  
\*Aug. 1: 11:45 a.m., 1800 block of Silliman St., missing person, adult.  
\*Aug. 1: 2:30 p.m., 200 block of Hahn St., battery, suspect known.  
\*Aug. 1: 9:35 p.m., 1900 block of Sunnydale Ave., vandalism, broken window, suspect known.  
\*Aug. 1: San Bruno and Silver Aves., lost property, grand theft.  
\*Aug. 1: 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., malicious mischief, breaking windows.  
\*Aug. 2: 8:45 a.m., Dartmouth and Mansell Sts., loss of wallet, money, credit card, ID and cell phone, victim suffered minor injuries to foot and wrist.  
\*Aug. 2: Bacon and Girard Sts., stolen automobile.  
\*Aug. 2: Silliman and Hamilton Sts., malicious mischief, graffiti.  
\*Aug. 2: Mansell St. near John F. Shelley Dr., grand theft from locked auto.  
\*Aug. 3: 11 a.m., Bacon St. and San Bruno Ave., loss of woman's purse containing cell phone, rosary, keys and money, victim suffered minor injuries to head and ankle.  
\*Aug. 3: 7:21 p.m., 800 block of Silliman St., entry made through front gate and front door, loss was backpack, money, computer, jewelry, passport, social security card, liquor and bank statements.  
\*Aug. 3: Teddy Ave. and Rutland St., robbery on street with gun.

See Next Page

### Grapevine Classified

**VVCC BOARD MEETINGS:** Visitacion Valley Community Center (VVCC) regular monthly Board meetings, held the 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m., except December and May, are open to the public. Board members are selected by the members of the community center with dues currently paid, at the Annual Membership meeting held the 3rd Saturday in May each year. Any vacancies that occur on the Board due to uncompleted 3-year terms of membership are filled by appointment of the remaining Board members. At least 75% of our Board members must reside in Visitacion Valley. Persons interested in Board membership are encouraged to send a letter of interest to: Board of Directors Development Committee, Visitacion Valley Community Center, 50 Raymond Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134. Please let the Board know what you could contribute that will enhance and improve our organization for better service to our community. You will be contacted and your letter will be submitted to the Board for consideration at either the next Annual election or of any available open positions that will occur within the coming year.

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED for VVCC After School Program** to tutor children ages 5-14 at one of our 11 sites in the Visitacion Valley area. Interested persons contact Dee Smith, VVCC After School coordinator (415) 585-2059.

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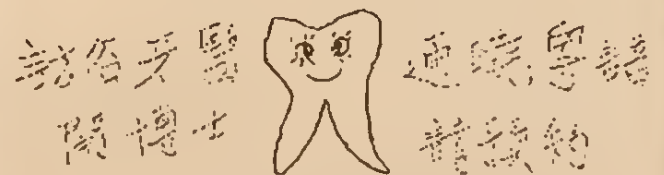
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Police Summaries

\*Aug. 3: Brookdale Ave. near Geneva Ave., battery.  
\*Aug. 4: 1700 block of Sunnydale Ave., '87 Honda recovered.  
\*Aug. 4: 300 block of Teddy Ave., stolen automobile.  
\*Aug. 4: 100 block of Britton St., malicious mischief, vandalism.  
\*Aug. 4: Goettingen St. near Sillman St., petty theft from locked auto.  
\*Aug. 4: San Bruno and Silver Aves., robbery on street with gun.  
\*Aug. 5: 2600 block of Bayshore Blvd., battery.  
\*Aug. 5: San Bruno Ave. near Bacon St., robbery on street, strongarm.  
\*Aug. 5: Bayshore Blvd. and Sunnydale Ave., battery.  
\*Aug. 6: First block of Raymond Ave., stolen automobile.  
\*Aug. 6: Blythdale Ave. and Hahn St., robbery on street with gun.  
\*Aug. 6: San Bruno Ave. near Bacon St., grand theft from building.  
\*Aug. 6: 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., carjacking with gun.  
\*Aug. 6: Rutland St. between Visitation and Sunnydale Aves., burglary of flat, attempted forcible entry.  
\*Aug. 6: Rutland St. between Visitation and Sunnydale Aves., malicious mischief, vandalism.  
\*Aug. 6: Sunnydale Ave. and Cora St., battery of police officer.  
\*Aug. 6: Tucker Ave. and Rutland St., grand theft from locked auto.  
\*Aug. 7: First block of Raymond Ave., '99 Honda Civic stolen.  
\*Aug. 7: 200 block of Leland Ave., battery.  
\*Aug. 7: Sillman and Hamilton Sts., grand theft from locked auto.  
\*Aug. 8: 6:15 p.m., 100 block of Raymond Ave., residential burglary occurred between 7:45 a.m. and 6 p.m., forced entry via kitchen window, cash and documents taken.  
\*Aug. 8: 1200 block of Sunnydale Ave., theft case, property not returned.  
\*Aug. 8: Sunnydale Ave. and Hahn St., robbery, armed with gun.  
\*Aug. 8: Raymond Ave. and Rutland St., burglary of residence, forcible entry.  
\*Aug. 8: Ankeny and Alder Sts., battery.  
\*Aug. 9: 1800 block of Sillman St. missing person, adult.  
\*Aug. 9: 200 block of Argonaut Ave., vandalism.  
\*Aug. 9: First block of Brookdale Ave., aided case, police standby made.  
\*Aug. 10: 9:30 p.m., Garrison Ave. and Rey St., shots fired, four parked cars damaged, no injuries reported.  
\*Aug. 10: 3300 block of San Bruno Ave., '97 Acura stolen.  
\*Aug. 10: 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., '92 Lexus recovered.  
\*Aug. 10: San Bruno Ave. near Ordway St., stolen automobile.  
\*Aug. 10: 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., battery.  
\*Aug. 11: 100 block of Campbell Ave., '83 Toyota Terol recovered.  
\*Aug. 11: 200 block of Blythdale Ave., battery, suspect unknown.  
\*Aug. 11: Teddy Ave. and Alpha St., stolen automobile.  
\*Aug. 11: Sunnydale Ave. and Sawyer St., stolen automobile.  
\*Aug. 11: 100 block of Blythdale Ave., battery.  
\*Aug. 13: 4:30 p.m., 1500 block of Sunnydale Ave., residential burglary occurred between 3 and 4:30 p.m., forced entry via rear bedroom window, cash, jewelry and stereo equipment taken.  
\*Aug. 13: 200 block of Talbert St., violation of court order, phone calls.  
\*Aug. 13: 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., battery, suspect unknown.  
\*Aug. 13: 1500 block of Sunnydale Ave., burglary of residence, forcible entry.  
\*Aug. 13: Leland Ave. near Rutland St., robbery on street with gun.  
\*Aug. 13: Blythdale Ave. and Santos St., stolen automobile.  
\*Aug. 13: Geneva Ave. and Esquina Dr., battery.  
\*Aug. 14: 500 block of Raymond Ave., parked car impounded for registration violation.  
\*Aug. 14: First block of Blythdale Ave., '90 Acura Legend stolen.  
\*Aug. 14: First block of Blythdale Ave., found person, juvenile.  
\*Aug. 14: Woolsey and Bowdoin Sts., stolen automobile.  
\*Aug. 15: 100 block of Blythdale Ave., vandalism to parked car.  
\*Aug. 15: Visitation Ave. and Schwerin St., grand theft purses/natch.  
\*Aug. 16: 5:30 p.m., 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., residential burglary occurred between 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., forced entry via front window, cash taken.  
\*Aug. 16: 300 block of Arleta Ave., '91 Honda Accord stolen.  
\*Aug. 16: 200 block of Blythdale Ave., missing person, adult.  
\*Aug. 16: 7:40 p.m., First block of Blythdale Ave., residential burglary occurred between 4 and 7 p.m., forced entry through kitchen window, DVD player taken.  
\*Aug. 16: 100 block of Blythdale St., vandalism to parked car.  
\*Aug. 16: McLaren Park, auto burglary.  
\*Aug. 16: Silver Ave. and Girard St., carjacking with bodily force.  
\*Aug. 16: Silver Ave. and Girard St., stolen and recovered vehicle.  
\*Aug. 16: Girard St. and Harkness Ave., assault.  
\*Aug. 16: Girard St. and Harkness Ave., burglary of residence, forcible entry.  
\*Aug. 16: Arleta Ave. and Delta St., stolen automobile.  
\*Aug. 17: Wayland and Girard Sts., grand theft from locked auto.  
\*Aug. 17: First block of Blythdale Ave., burglary of residence, forcible entry.  
\*Aug. 18: 1800 block of Sunnydale Ave., malicious mischief, breaking windows.  
\*Aug. 18: 2:30 p.m., University and Wayland Sts., burglary of commercial building, entry made through door of tool shed, loss was chainsaw and lock.  
Captain Denis O'Leary of Ingleside Station and Captain John Lotus of Bayview Station contributed to this report.

California Housing Remains Mostly Unaffordable

SACRAMENTO – Fueled by waves of foreclosures resulting in sharp price reductions throughout California, housing affordability increased in most markets throughout the state during the second quarter of 2008, but affordability in California remains a serious long-term issue, the California Building Industry Association said recently.

The quarterly National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo Housing Opportunity Index found that homes were more affordable in 25 of the state's 28 metro areas included in the report, but because home prices have fallen throughout most of the nation, California still has more metro areas scoring the lowest in affordability than any other state. In addition, underlying demographic trends point to rising prices in the future once the large supply of foreclosed homes is sold, meaning today's relatively high affordability levels are likely to be a short-lived phenomenon after the

market correction is completed.

Robert Rivinius, CBIA's President and CEO, said the rising affordability rates in most areas is welcome news for prospective homebuyers looking to purchase a home in the near future, but urged policy makers to continue looking at ways to bring the cost of new housing down and address the unprecedented escalation of impact fees in hopes of keeping housing more affordable when the market rebounds and prices start to increase.

"On a statewide basis, the HOI found that a median-income family could have afforded 36.8 percent of the new and existing homes that were sold during the second quarter, up from 31 percent in the first quarter," Rivinius said. "This is a great time for first-time homebuyers to get out there and start shopping around because affordability at these levels will not last long."

"California is still a highly desir-

able place to live and once we achieve market equilibrium the state will be facing a new-home shortage as production has lagged far behind the estimated 230,000 units per year needed to keep up with our growing population," Rivinius said. "We will then see affordability levels drop."

During the second quarter of 2008, six of the 10 least-affordable metro areas in the nation were located in California, as were 11 of the bottom 20. However, for the first time since the NAHB/Wells Fargo housing opportunity index began tracking housing affordability in 1991, the least affordable metro area was not located in California. New York City took over as the least affordable market in the nation with just 11.4 percent of the homes sold affordable to a median income family, down from 12.5 percent in the first quarter.

San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin counties took the lead as

VISITACION VALLEY GRAPEVINE • SEPTEMBER 2008 • 9

California's least-affordable metro area, and second in the nation (13.8 percent), followed by San Luis Obispo County (14.7 percent), Los Angeles County (14.8 percent) and Miami-Dade County in Florida (17.7 percent).

The Sacramento region was California's most affordable market for the second quarter in a row with 55.7 percent affordability, up from 49.7 percent in the first quarter. Stanislaus and Merced counties were the second and third most-affordable markets in California with 49.3 percent and 48.6 percent affordability, respectively.

Nationwide, 55 percent of new and existing homes sold in the second quarter were affordable to families earning the national median income, up from 53.8 percent in the first quarter. Canton-Massillon, Ohio, became the nation's most-affordable housing market with an affordability ranking of 96.7 percent, followed by Springfield, Ohio, with a ranking of 93.9 percent.

Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Update on Environmental Activities at the Former Schlage Lock and Southern Pacific OU-1 Sites

DTSC is issuing this fact sheet to update the community on environmental activities at the former Schlage Lock and Southern Pacific OU-1 sites located east of Bayshore Boulevard in San Francisco and Brisbane. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is the regulatory agency overseeing investigation and cleanup activities at these sites.

The former Schlage Lock site is located at 2401 and 2555 Bayshore Boulevard in San Francisco. Part of the Southern Pacific OU-1 site is located east of Schlage Lock in San Francisco (between Schlage Lock and the Cal-Train tracks). The southern portion of Southern Pacific OU-1 extends from Sunnydale to Geneva Avenue and is located in Brisbane.

These two properties total about 19 acres and future plans for development of these sites include discussions on mixed use such as residential, retail and open space. Before redevelopment can begin, soil and groundwater contamination must be cleaned up. If you have questions about the investigation or proposed cleanup activities at these sites, please contact Virginia Lasky, DTSC Project Manager, at (510) 540-3829 or by e-mail at vlasky@dtsc.ca.gov.

**Site Histories and Environmental Investigations**

What may appear to the community as one large site is, in fact, two separate sites with separate histories and environmental problems.

**Former Schlage Lock Site**

Schlage Lock manufactured door hardware and lock parts from 1926 to 1999. As part of their manufacturing process, Schlage Lock used chlorinated solvents resulting in soil and groundwater contamination.

Environmental investigations have been conducted at this site since 1982. Results of these investigations indicate that volatile organic compounds (VOCs), primarily trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE) are the main contaminants found in soil and groundwater. Other contaminants present at the site include metals such as arsenic, chromium, cadmium, lead, and nickel. Soil removal and cleanup actions have been conducted at this site since 1994 and groundwater is sampled quarterly to monitor the movement and levels of chemicals.

There is VOC contaminated groundwater underneath the Southern Pacific OU-1 site that originates from the groundwater contamination at the Schlage Lock site. As a result, the cleanup will include soil contamination on the Schlage Lock site and groundwa-

ter contaminated with VOC's at both the Schlage Lock and Southern Pacific OU-1 sites.

**Schlage Lock and San Francisco Portion of Southern Pacific OU-1 Activities**

DTSC is currently overseeing a pilot study at the Schlage Lock site to determine the best method to clean up VOCs in the soil and groundwater. The existing groundwater extraction and treatment system has been shut down to allow the groundwater to stabilize and to ensure that pilot study results represent natural groundwater flow conditions. Borings will be drilled to collect soil and groundwater samples to evaluate existing conditions. Monitoring wells will be installed to sample groundwater before and during the pilot study.

Based on the results of the samples collected, a series of injection points will be installed to inject chemicals for the two methods of groundwater cleanup that are being evaluated in the pilot study. One cleanup method is called in situ chemical oxidation (ISCO). The other cleanup method is called enhanced reductive dechlorination (ERD). These two methods cause the VOCs in groundwater to break down into non-toxic components. Periodic sampling and testing will determine the best method for lowering VOC levels in the groundwater. Additional soil samples are also being collected to provide more information about the contamination.

Results of the pilot study and soil samples will be available in fall 2008 and will be used to draft a cleanup plan for the sites. The cleanup plan, called a draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP), will summarize the contamination that exists on the site, identify the cleanup goals, evaluate the cleanup options and make a recommendation on the best cleanup method. The cleanup plan should be available for public comment this winter with cleanup of the site beginning in summer 2009.

Demolition on the Schlage Lock site should begin in Fall 2008.

**Southern Pacific OU-1 Site**

This site was used by Southern Pacific Transportation Company for major railcar rehabilitation and maintenance operations from 1914 to 1960. As a result of almost fifty years of railcar operations, the soil is contaminated with metals (such as chromium, lead and arsenic) and petroleum by-products. Soil and groundwater cleanup have been conducted at the site since 1994.

**Brisbane Portion of Southern Pacific OU-1 Activities**

Quarterly groundwater monitoring is currently being conducted at the site. Additional cleanup of soils is planned for the Site. A new clean up plan will be developed for this site. The community will be notified once

the draft cleanup plan is available.

**DTSC Public Participation**

DTSC values community input and wants to make sure the public is aware of cleanup activities in their neighborhood. The community's input is considered in decisions made for these sites. The DTSC public participation program includes the following:

*Community Survey:* In May 2008, an initial survey was sent out to 3,500 area residents and businesses to determine community interest about both sites.

*Public Participation Plan (PPP):* DTSC is currently writing the PPP, which includes input from key stakeholders and community members and outlines how the public will be informed about cleanup activities at the sites.

*Draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Fact Sheet:* DTSC will issue fact sheets announcing the public comment period for the draft RAPs (cleanup plans) for each of the sites when they are ready for public comment.

*Public Comment Period:* A 30-day public comment period will provide interested community members an opportunity to comment on the draft RAPs for each of the sites.

*Public Notice:* DTSC will announce the public comment periods and availability of the draft RAP documents by publishing a display ad in the local community newspapers.

*Response to Comments:* DTSC will issue a Response to Comments document that shows how public comments were considered in the selection of a final cleanup plan.

*Work Notices:* DTSC will issue work notices regularly throughout the life of the project to ensure that the community is provided with up to date information about project-related activities.

**Advisory Groups**

*Brisbane Baylands Community Advisory Group (BBCAG)*

In June 2005, DTSC helped the community form the Brisbane Baylands Community Advisory Group (BBCAG) for the Brisbane Bayland sites which includes the Southern Pacific OU-1 site. The CAG is an advisory group that provides DTSC with comments on the investigation and cleanup decisions. The BBCAG meets monthly at the Community Center in Brisbane.

*Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)*

The City and County of San Francisco have been working with the community to formulate a redevelopment plan for the Schlage Lock property. The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is an advisory body to the Redevelopment Agency appointed by the Mayor of San Francisco to provide input and comment on proposed redevelopment

for Visitation Valley. The CAC meets monthly at a location near the former Schlage Lock site in San Francisco.

**Information Repositories**

To encourage community review and input, DTSC has established the following information repositories for these sites:

\*SF Public Library, Visitation Valley Branch, 45 Leland Avenue, San Francisco, CA, (415) 337-4790

\*Visitation Valley Community Center, 50 Raymond Avenue, San Francisco, CA, (415) 467-6400

\*Brisbane Public Library, 250 Visitation Avenue, Brisbane, CA, (415) 460-2060

\*DTSC File Room, 700 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley, CA, (510) 540-3800, Hours: M-F 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (Please call for an appointment.)

**EnviroStor Database**

You can also view the Schlage Lock and Southern Pacific OU-1 site documents on our website at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov). "Click" on EnviroStor in the left column, then type in "San Francisco" or "Brisbane" then "click" on Get Report at the bottom of the page. Select site name from the alphabetical list of sites. "Click" on Report next to the site name.

**For More Information**

For more information about the site, the cleanup process or site related documents, please contact: Virginia Lasky, DTSC Project Manager, (510) 540-3829, e-mail: vlasky@dtsc.ca.gov

For questions regarding the public participation process, please contact: Wayne Hagen, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, (510) 540-3911, e-mail: whagen@dtsc.ca.gov

For media questions, please contact: Claudia Loomis, DTSC Public Information Officer, (916) 255-6578, e-mail: cloomis@dtsc.ca.gov

TDD users can obtain information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at (888) 877-5378. Please ask to speak with Wayne Hagen, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at, at (510) 540-3911.

**Timeline for Schlage Lock and San Francisco Portion of Southern Pacific OU-1:**

\*Summer 2008: Pilot Study; Soil Samples; Community Briefings; Work Notices; Fact Sheet

\*Fall 2008: EIR CEQA certification; Demolition on Schlage Lock; Community interviews; Public Participation Plan

\*Winter 2009: Draft RAP; Demolition on Schlage Lock; Public notice; Fact Sheet; Public Meeting; 30-day public comment period

\*Spring 2009: Final RAP; Design remedial systems; Response to Comments

\*Summer 2009: Cleanup begins; Work Notices



Grapevine Puzzler

Italian Experience 2

P P P R A T O R I S T A N O M R E L A P  
A E E I N R E T E R A M O N I R O T R O  
D R S T S O N D R I O D S A E R T R A T  
O U C A O A I Z E N E V V D S A D A V E  
V G A R R B A N A P O L I T E S V P O N  
A I R A A O I T E I R A S T R A A A N Z  
N A A N G D V V E R C E L L I L L N D A  
E R N T U S A S S A R I G Y T E E I F N  
D E E O S C P V V D W Q S G Q R N T R O  
O T I S A S I A F J K I L H I N T J Y V  
M A S F O R S R R H T R E N T O I A T A  
I M S R E O T E I M F B M H G G A I R S  
L S O G D V O S M R A V E N N A I R A E  
A U G Q J I L E I G H J H A G H L B Z T  
N I R T Y G A S N I H J G M G Z G I A N  
O A E T R O S D I D F O G F S N M L E N  
Q E R E E N O N E D R O P B F D E A C O  
S I R A C U S A E E O S I V E R T C A R  
D S T R I E S T E R A I N A B R E V I E  
A N I S S E M A C F D S Z D F M H R P V

Matera  
Messina  
Milano  
Modena  
Napoli  
Novara  
Nuoro  
Oristano  
Padova  
Palermo  
Parma  
Pavia  
Perugia

Pesaro  
Pescara  
Piacenza  
Pisa  
Pordenone  
Potenza  
Prato  
Ragusa  
Ravenna  
Reggio  
Calabria  
Reggio  
Emilia

Rieti  
Rimini  
Roma  
Rovigo  
Salerno  
Sassari  
Savona  
Siena  
Siracusa  
Sondrio  
Taranto  
Teramo  
Terni

Torino  
Trapani  
Trento  
Treviso  
Trieste  
Udine  
Varese  
Venezia  
Verbania  
Vercelli  
Verona  
Valentia  
Vicenza

Historic Proportions

1868

Match clues to answers.

1. On Nov. 27, he led the troops in the Battle of Washita River.
2. Observed in the United States for the first time on May 30.
3. He defeated Horatio Seymour in U.S. presidential election on Nov. 3.
4. Christian Mission established in London on July 5, predecessor of this organization.
5. He granted unconditional pardon to all Civil War rebels on Dec. 25.
6. President Andrew Johnson was acquitted during this on May 16.
7. Riot here on Aug. 22 nearly leads

As a Matter of Fact

"It was once believed that the Leaning Tower of Pisa lost its perpendicularity because a giant rested against it.

"President John Quincy Adams owned a pet alligator which he kept in the East Room of the White House.

"The minimum pool depth required for international water polo matches is six feet.

"Short height and speeches on behalf of the Democratic party earned President James Polk the nickname "Napoleon of the Stump."

"The term "restaurant" was first used by Boulanger, who opened the first establishment of its kind in Paris in 1765.

"A hedgehog's heart beats 300 times a minute on average.

"The phrase "down in the dumps" is thought to derive from the Dutch word "domp," which means haze

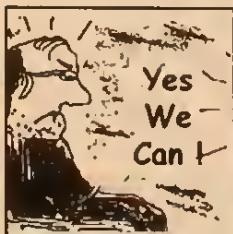
Grapevine Five Years Ago

SEPTEMBER 2003

"More than a year after the John King Senior Community officially opened its doors, the new John King Child and Family Development Center located on the premises celebrated its grand opening Aug. 1 with a gala celebration.

"During the summer, the initial step was completed in saving palm trees located at the corner of Blanken Avenue and Bayshore Boulevard

Sump, the Gump



Baby Boomers

by Rix Quinn

Lunch Boxes

Lunch boxes have come a long way from the metal containers we Boomers took to school. But you gotta admit it...we had some cool lunch pails!

If Boomers didn't buy their lunch from the school cafeteria, they had two other options: (1) bring the lunch in a paper sack, and buy their drink in the cafeteria, or (2) bring a lunch box, which came with a thermal bottle to hold the liquid refreshment brought from home.

Each fall on the first day of school, we checked out our friends' new lunch boxes. Most carried the faces of TV action heroes or cartoon characters. Today, if you've held onto those old lunch boxes, they might fetch you a lot of money with collectors.

But thus far, I haven't talk to a single friend who kept his. Personally, I quit taking mine to work when I turned 31.

TV Shows

What types of television shows did Baby Boomers watch most? Wow, that's a hard question, because Boomers were born over a long period, between 1946 and 1964.

To find an answer, we decided to pick a year when most Boomers were alive, and when those born in the middle of the Boom (1954) would vividly recall TV. The year we selected was 1960.

During that year, four of the top 20 shows - including first-ranked "Gunsmoke" - were westerns. Five were situation comedies. Three were variety shows, which each showcased a number of performers.

Why? Why? Why?...

"Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are getting dead?"

"Why do banks charge a fee on "insufficient funds" when they know there is not enough money?"

"Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?"

"Why doesn't glue stick to the bottle?"

"Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?"

"Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks when you throw a revolver at him?"

"Whose idea was it to put an 'S' in the word 'lisp'?"

"If people evolved from apes, why are there still apes?"

"Why is it that no matter what color bubble bath you use the bubbles are always white?"

"Is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?"

"Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?"

"Why do people keep running over a string a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance?"

"Why is it that no plastic bag will open from the end on your first try?"

"How do those dead bugs get into those enclosed light fixtures?"

"When we are in the supermarket and someone rams our ankle with a shopping cart then apologizes for doing so, why do we say, 'It's all right'?"

"Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table you always manage to knock something else over?"

"In winter, why do we try to keep the house as warm as it was in summer when we complained about the heat?"

"How come you never hear father-in-law jokes?"

"The statistics on sanity are that one out of every four persons is suffering from some sort of mental illness. Think of your three best friends - if they're okay, then it's you.

And one of the top game shows - "The Price is Right" - is still very popular today.

Boomer Devices

Next to television, the two electronic devices that probably influenced Boomers most were the record player and the transistor radio. And frequently, both broadcast the same sounds.

The transistor radio provided a portable listening device that Boomers could carry anywhere...to a beach, to a picnic, or on any kind of outing. The transistor radio ran on batteries, and received music from multiple stations. Many AM and FM stations of the 50's, 60's, and 70's carried "top 40" music hits.

Boomers listened to the radio, heard songs they loved, then went to record stores to buy hit singles or albums. They brought those records home to play on their hi-fis, stereos, or record players.

Saturdays

Back in their youth, what did Boomer do on Saturdays? Many told us they went to the movies to see a double feature.

"Those were great times," one Boomer recalled. "I think our neighborhood theater opened at noon, and for a single admission price we kids often got to see two features and a cartoon. However, my favorite part was right at the first, when we got to see trailers for upcoming motion pictures."

One older Boomer said he also remembered seeing a newsreel of the previous week's events that lasted for 15 to 20 minutes. "However," he said, "at some point in my movie experience newsreels just sort of faded away. Maybe it was because - with the popularity of television - audiences felt like they'd just recently seen the same subjects on TV."

I Didn't Know That!

\*Stewardesses is the longest word typed with only the left hand

\*And lollipop is the longest word typed with your right hand.

\*No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.

\*Dreamt is the only English word that ends in the letters 'mt'.

\*Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose ears never stop growing.

\*The sentence: 'The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog' uses every letter of the alphabet.

\*The words racecar, kayak and level are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left (palindromes).

\*There are only four words in the English language which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.

\*There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: abstemious and facetious.

\*Typewriter is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.

\*A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.

\*A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.

\*A jiffy is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.

\*A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.

\*A snail can sleep for three years.

\*Almonds are a member of the peach family.

\*An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

\*February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.

\*In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.

\*If the population of China walked past you, eight abreast, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.

\*Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors

\*Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.

\*Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

\*The average person's left hand does 56 percent of the typing.

\*The cruise liner, QE 2 moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel that it burns.

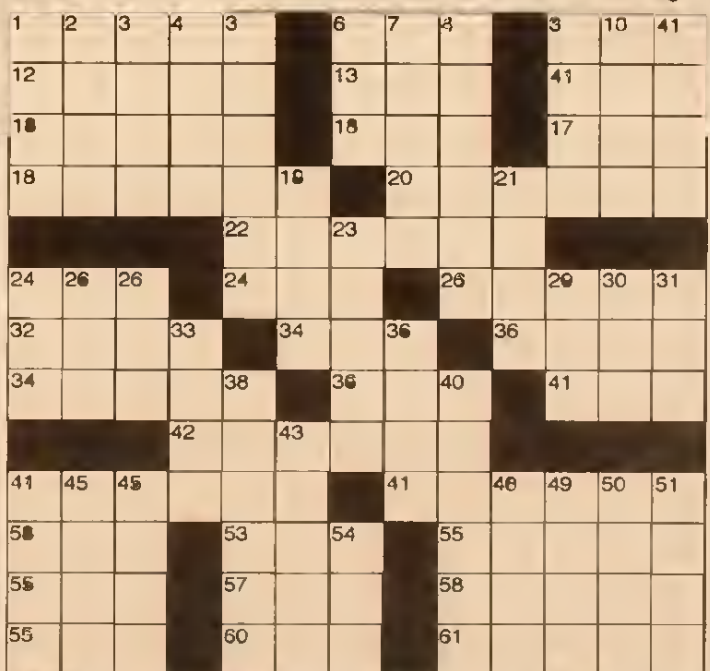
\*The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.

\*The winter of 1932 was so cold that Niagara Falls froze completely solid.

\*There are more chickens than people in the world.

Crossword Puzzle

Solution on Page 6



ACROSS

- 1 Calyx lead
- 6 Arabic letter
- 9 Vigor
- 12 Dodge
- 13 Presidential nickname
- 14 Amateur Boxing Assn. (abbr.)
- 15 Gr. Poetic foot
- 16 Physician
- 17 Fellow
- 18 Boll
- 20 5th Incarnation of Vishnu
- 22 Ancient ascetic
- 24 Sheep's cry
- 27 Indian ground salt
- 28 Guided missile
- 32 Cuckoo point
- 34 Brythonic sea god

DOWN

- 1 Six (Sp.)
- 2 Revelry cry
- 3 Stamp-sheet segment
- 4 Mine entrance
- 5 Satyr
- 6 Papa
- 7 Over
- 8 Pour off gently
- 9 Site of Second Punic Wars end
- 10 Dayak people
- 11 Spotted cavy
- 19 Ass or donkey (Ger.)
- 21 Chin. Flour
- 23 Ledge
- 24 Floor covering
- 25 One hundred square meters

26 Bird

- 29 Hyson
- 30 Television channel
- 31 No (Scott.)
- 33 Change (pref.)
- 35 Muslim ship's captain
- 38 Nut
- 40 Sinus cavity
- 43 Bundle of twigs
- 44 Semitic deity
- 45 Bernese river (Lat.)
- 46 Territory
- 48 Increase
- 49 Grandfather (Lat.)
- 50 Body of water
- 51 Wings
- 54 Amazon tributary



## Visitacion Valley Business Directory

Valley free listings in the 415 area code.  
Call the Grapevine at (415) 467-9300

**AQUARIUM**  
DRAGON CITY AQUARIUM, 144 Leland Ave., 333-4598

**AUTOMOTIVE**  
BAYSHORE AUTO, 2260 Bayshore Blvd., 467-6130  
BAYSHORE SERVICE, 2596 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5239  
BROTHERS AUTO BODY, 2520 Bayshore Blvd.  
CHARLIE'S GARAGE, 2560 Bayshore Blvd., 239-7450  
T.W. AUTOMOTIVE, 2500 Bayshore Blvd., 585-8281

**BANK**  
BANK OF AMERICA, 6 Leland Ave., 622-4501

**BAKERS**  
LITTLE QUIAPO BAKE SHOP, 169 Leland Ave., 239-2253

**BARBERS**  
BARBERSHOP, 3570 San Bruno Ave., 724-4398  
EMMA'S HAIR SALON, 35 Leland Ave., 587-7429  
THE SHOP (JIB), 160A Leland Ave., 239-6709

**BEAUTICIANS**  
BODY SOUL & SPIRIT, 222 Leland Ave., 333-7261  
FACE, BODY & SOUL, 3682 San Bruno Ave., 467-3223  
HONG KONG HAIR & NAIL BEAUTY SALON, 199 Leland Ave., 333-1005  
LUCKY HAIR, 2436 Bayshore Blvd., 586-8288  
MAY MAY BEAUTY SALON, 60 Leland Ave., 337-9381  
MIZ RENAS SALON, 19 Blanken Ave., 467-3399  
NAILS BY JENNY, 50 Leland Ave., 333-6800  
WHO'S BADD, 224 Leland Ave., 657-3156

**BLIND CLEANING**  
SPEEDY ULTRASONIC BLIND CLEANING (commercial and residential), 1116 Girard St., 467-7506

**BOARDING HOUSE**  
ABLES CASA, 850 Rutland St., 333-4664, fax 333-4683

**BOOKKEEPERS**  
AMY ARAGON, PROFESSIONAL BOOKKEEPER, 467-8927  
VERNA WALLACE E.A., 2320 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5333

**CARPETS**  
HANSAN INTERIORS, 41 Leland Ave., 333-6382

**CHURCHES**  
CHURCH OF THE VISITACION, 655 Sunnydale Ave., 239-5950  
IGLESIA EL ESPIRITU SANTO, 38 Leland Ave.  
KOREAN FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 333 Tunnel Ave., 468-1213  
RIDGE VIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 590 Leland Ave., 239-5457  
ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 240 Leland Ave., 586-6381  
VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, 305 Raymond Ave., 467-6055  
VISITACION CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH, 8 Desmond St., 333-4503

**COFFEE**  
CANDLESTICK COFFEE, 2156 Bayshore Blvd., 467-2442  
HAPPY DONUT, 2600 Bayshore Blvd., 469-5309  
JOE LELAND CAFE, 28 Leland Ave.

**CREDIT UNION**  
NORTHEAST COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, 29 Leland Ave., 434-0738

**DAY CARE**  
CAROUSEL DAY CARE, 261 Hahn St., 469-5353

**DENTIST**  
VISITACION VALLEY DENTAL OFFICE (Albert Kuan, DDS), 37 Leland Ave., 239-5500

**DEVELOPERS**  
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CORPORATION, 1099 Sunnydale Ave., 587-7895

**ELECTRICAL**  
TATE ELECTRIC (Joel Tate), 467-4657

**FLOORS**  
TEDDY B'S HARDWOOD FLOORS, 309-6342

**FLORISTS**  
IL FIORE FLOWERS, 2466 San Bruno Ave., 468-0145

**GARDEN ORNAMENTS**  
SILVESTRI GARDEN ORNAMENTS, 2635 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5990

**GROCERS**  
CASA LOPEZ PRODUCE, 58 Leland Ave., 586-4745  
E-Z STOP MARKET, 2203 Geneva Ave., 585-9240  
FIVE MILE MARKET, 3574 San Bruno Ave., 467-7300  
LA LOMA PRODUCE #2, 65 Leland Ave., 239-7520  
LITTLE VILLAGE MARKET, 1450 Sunnydale Ave., 586-1815  
M & M SHORTSTOP, 2145 Geneva Ave., 585-0878  
PICCOLO PETE, 2155 Bayshore Blvd., 468-6800  
7-11, 2200 Bayshore Blvd., 468-8646  
SHUN LEE MARKET, 2400 Bayshore Blvd., 586-4851  
SUPER FAIR MARKET, 201 Leland Ave., 239-6856  
TEOY'S MARKET, 298 Teddy Ave.

**HERBS**  
SAN ON HERBS, 33-A Leland Ave., 333-7469

**HYPNOTHERAPY**  
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CITY WASH, 83 Leland Ave., 333-9467  
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FORTY-NINER CLEANERS, 51 Leland Ave., 239-6418  
LELANO AVENUE CLEANERS, 151 Leland Ave., 586-1412  
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VISITACION VALLEY LAUNDRY, 108 Leland Ave., 239-9030

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VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY BEACON CENTER, 450 Raymond Ave., 452-4907  
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DR. SAM HO, MD, 2858 San Bruno Ave., 337-6135  
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**LELAND HOUSE**, 141 Leland Ave., 405-2000

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VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER (VVCC), 50 Raymond Ave., 467-6400  
VVCC FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER, 161 Leland Ave., 586-6998, Fax 586-8027  
VISITACION VALLEY BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AND OUTREACH TO MERCHANTS (VVBOM), 1039 Sunnydale Ave., 587-7896 ext. 104

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## Looking for a Change in Healthcare

by Todd Stottlemeyer

Change, it's said, is the one constant in everyone's life. That's also true for small business owners, with one expensive exception.

The cost of health insurance has been the number-one small business problem for more than 20 years. That status was just confirmed once again in the 2008 edition of Small Business Problems and Priorities, a study conducted every four years by the National Federation of Independent Business.

This study is unique in that most surveys are more narrowly focused and are limited to addressing relatively few problems. Small Business Problems and Priorities asked more than 3,500 small business owners from around the country their views on 75 different issues. The list includes problems with obvious public policy implications, as well as those related to managing the business. The combination provides a broad context and shows the relative priorities that small business owners assign to their everyday problems. In that respect, it's a critically important guide for policymakers.

The principal reason that health insurance costs continue to reign as the top problem is because for small businesses, those costs have risen 129 percent since 2000. These huge increases have forced some small business owners to drop employee health plans, while preventing others from offering one in the first place. Only about 59 percent of small firms (3-199 employees) now offer a health plan, down from 68 percent in 2000. So it's little wonder that 56 percent of small business owners consider the cost of health insurance to be a critical problem.

Energy costs (except electricity), addressed as a separate issue) are the second most pressing problem for small business owners in 2008, two positions higher than in 2004.

Reflecting the rapid increase we've all experienced in energy prices, 43 percent consider the problem critical, compared to one-quarter of owners four years ago. Electricity rates rank 9th in 2008, up one spot from 2004, and 16 percent of business owners say that rates are a critical problem.

Four of the top 10 problems concern taxes, federal, state and local. Federal taxes on business income ranks 3rd, up from 5th in 2004. The state equivalent ranks 7th, compared to 8th in 2004. Business owners ranked taxes on property (real, inventory or personal property) 4th in 2008, up from 6th in 2004.

The fourth tax-related problem is a new issue included in the 2008 survey—the complexity of the tax code. It ranks 5th among the survey's issues and is a critical problem for 23 percent of business owners.

Tax complexity has reached the point where 88 percent of small business owners opt to pay a tax preparer or accountant to do their federal tax returns because they just can't keep up with ever-changing laws and regulations. The complexity of the tax code also makes sound long-range planning a nightmare for entrepreneurs.

You may have noticed that the surveys are conducted in presidential election years. That's no coincidence. Small businesses are the principal creators of new jobs in this country and represent a powerful voting bloc, and therefore are a key audience for any politician. If elected officials and candidates for public office want small businesses to continue creating jobs and growing the economy, they should look at the Small Business Problems and Priorities survey results and get to work addressing these issues.

Todd Stottlemeyer is president and CEO of the National Federation of Independent Business in Washington, D.C.

## Visitacion Valley Family and Community Services Center



**For a Better, Healthier, Safer Community for All**

### We Can Help You!

Complete Immigration documents, assist with SF County paperwork (Medi-Cal, Welfare, etc.), education workshops, referrals to other services

**Literacy with Games and Activities**  
Saturday, September 13  
10 a.m. - 12 noon

**Family Engagement Specil Events**  
Saturday, September 27  
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Summer Family Hands-on Literacy**  
Thursday, September 4  
5 - 7 p.m.

**Parents' Support Group**  
Thursday, September 11  
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Parenting State of Mind

### Every Wednesday

September 10, 17 and 24  
6 - 8 p.m.

**Men's Classes**  
Facilitated by  
Before The After  
**FREE Refreshments**

### Free Food Distribution

Every Monday,  
3 - 4 p.m.  
September 8, 15, 22 and 29  
Emergency food box  
available anytime.  
Call (415) 586-6998,  
Monday-Friday,  
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

### September 2008 Activities

held at 161 Leland Avenue  
except where noted

#### Enhanced Information and Referral

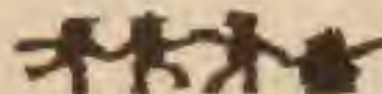
Every Monday Through Friday  
September 1 to 30, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**PE Classes, Fridays, 5:30 - 7 p.m.**  
September 5: Calm vs. Overwhelm  
September 12: Inside-Out: The Natural Experience  
September 19: Separate Realities  
September 26: Stress and Anger Management

**Male Involvement Group**  
Saturday, September 20, 1 - 3 p.m.

**Interactive and Child Activities**  
Thursday, September 25, 4:30 - 7 p.m.

Family and Community Services Center staff:  
Meriam Abalos, Marichelle Punzalan, Cynthia Pun,  
Joyce Boone, and Jenny Sosa



161 Leland Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134

Tel: (415) 586-6998 Fax: (415) 586-8027 e-mail: meriam\_vvcc@sbcglobal.net






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Swimming with her twin sisters at Russian River  
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